

## DES re-shuffle to ease binary planning

A radical reorganization of branches is to take place within the Department of Education and Science, which will give the department for the first time the real capacity to plan across the binary divide of higher education.

This reorganization, taken with the first tripartite meeting between the DES, UGC, and CLEA last week, is an important step in the policy which officials hope will enable the DES to manage a steady-state rather than expanding higher education system in the 1980s.

Higher and Further Education Branch 1 (HFE 1) which is responsible for non-university higher and further education will be merged with HFE2 which handles university policy to form a new super-branch.

The third branch at present, HFE3 which looks after further education for industry and liaises with the UGC, will be made responsible for adult and continuing education. Under the reorganization a third branch will be created to look after a range of items such as the Open University and student grants.

Mr Richard Bird, at present the under secretary in charge of HFE2, is to be promoted deputy secretary

in charge of further and higher education in succession to Mr Alan Thompson who retires in July. Next year Mr Bird will also become responsible for science and international relations as the result of a further reshuffle.

The creation of the super-branch will provide a policy focus for finance and planning for further and higher education as a whole. For the first time a single branch will look after the universities and the polytechnics and colleges.

This will enable the DES, aided by the Inspectorate, to push ahead more purposively with its policy of course rationalization on a broad trans-binary front and to implement any "broad steer" to subject balance which manpower forecasts may suggest.

It will also help to fill the vacuum created by the failure to establish an Oakes-style national body for the maintenance of the problem of teacher training in shortage subjects. This has become urgent because the first crude stage of capping the pool has had such capricious effects, ranging from 15 per cent cuts for the hardest hit polytechnics like Huddersfield and Kingston to virtually no cuts at all in the case of the inner London polytechnics.

## UGC to cooperate with local authorities over courses

The University Grants Committee has agreed in principle for the first time to cooperate with local education authorities in planning higher education numbers and courses across the binary line.

At a private meeting this month with local authority representatives, and Dr Boyson, the under secretary for higher education, UGC chairman Dr Edward Pease said it would be impossible to plan for a period of retrenchment in higher education without liaising with the local authorities, who had become major providers of advanced courses.

The meeting was called by Dr Boyson in the wake of a decision by the Council of Local Education Authorities to set up its own higher education planning body. Dr Boyson proposed regular official meetings between the DES, CLEA and the UGC to cooperate on a number of issues.

These included the possible sharing of facilities, including laboratories, between universities and

polytechnics; joint discussions on course approvals; the strengthening of regional advisory councils and the problem of teacher training in shortage subjects.

Speaking for CLEA Mr Jack Springett, education officer of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, told the UGC and DES representatives that CLEA's new body was not intended to be a fully-fledged planning body of the sort envisaged in the Oakes report.

It had been set up to remedy the absence of national planning on the local government side of the binary line, but would not evolve into a major policy-making forum until it developed its own secretariat and incorporated union and management interests from the colleges. There were currently no plans to do so.

Nevertheless, Mr Springett later described the meeting at the DES as "historic". He said he was not aware of any previous meeting between the UGC and the local authorities at a similar level.

## Lancaster

continued from page 1

The statute from October 1980 should be the last for the School of European Studies. It is recommended.

The document argues that until 1983-4 the university faced a considerable loss of income because of the overseas fee policy. After that no recovery of funding can be expected because of the collapse of the higher education system and the diminishing size of the age group.

"The university must consolidate its strength so that it can contract and at the same time retain enough freedom of manoeuvre to accommodate new ideas and initiatives." The document states it is clear that the small size of the department concerned affects their economic viability.

"There is mounting evidence of the intention of Government increasingly to influence the activities of universities. The universities do not themselves develop cooperation and rationalization. It will be imposed upon them."

It concludes that the arguments in the document are designed to reorganise structures in a manner which will enable the university to maintain itself as a vigorous, creative, flexible and thriving institution through the 1980s.

## Student loans would win support from public

The majority of the general public and even a quarter of students would welcome the introduction of a system of student loans combined with grants, MPs were told this week.

Surprising attitudes emerged in a survey of 2,000 people carried out under the direction of Professor Cedric Sandford, of Bath University. Professor Sandford was one of four supporters of loans appearing before the Select Committee on Education.

Researchers in Bath and Exeter found general dissatisfaction among students and parents with the present means-tested grants system. But fewer than half the students interviewed favoured unconditional grants, although this remained the most popular single option.

Only 20 per cent of the public supported unconditional grants, and the proportion was weighted in any case by the number of students and their parents involved in the survey. More than a third of the public wanted a total loans system and 50 per cent preferred a mixture of grants and loans to the present arrangements.

## University board backs Flowers' report

by Robin McKie  
Science Correspondent

Approval of the Flowers' report calling for the closure and merging of many of London University's medical schools has been given by the university's academic advisory board in medicine.

At a recent meeting, the board, which acts as a medical faculty board in London, rejected a motion opposing the reorganisation plan of Lord Flowers and his working party and instead passed a resolution in favour of the report's recommendations.

However, several reservations were included in the motion, particularly about the educational issues raised by Flowers, and now a report of the meeting is to be presented to Lord Annan, vice-chancellor of London University.

The decision is the first in a series of moves which will take place before a final decision on the report is expected to be taken by the senate in July. At present submissions and responses from interested parties are to be handed in by May 31 and Lord Annan has now appointed a four-man working panel consisting of Dr M. P. Godfrey, dean of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and chairman of



Lord Flowers: given the go-ahead by London University's academic advisory board in medicine.

the Joint Medical Advisory Committee, Professor C. J. Dickinson, professor of medicine at Bartholomew's Hospital, Professor T. W. Glenister, dean of Charing Cross Hospital and Professor J. R. Kramer, dean of the Institute of Dental Surgery.

Further decisions will have to be taken by the Joint Medical Advisory Committee, which has the academic council's standing, and committees on medicine before a senate meeting.

Opposition to the Flowers plan has already been voiced by a convocation, the body of former university students, which has directly elected representatives to the senate and this week the Royal College of Physicians also rejected the report.

The increased numbers of medical graduates, and the introduction of mandatory vocational training by general practice, make this an appropriate time to decrease the number of posts available for general professional training, for which the college has a direct responsibility," said Sir Douglas Black, a college president.

The Association of University Teachers also revealed this week that London University had replied to its request for more detailed information about the claimed saving of implementing Flowers' cost of constructing new medical buildings, and the money in it obtained through their sales. Leader: page 39

## Pool-capping victims may recoup funds, says report

The polytechnics and colleges hardest hit by the new cash-limit system imposed on local authority budgets this year may have some of the cuts restored, according to a confidential report produced by the Department of Education and Science.

Last year's "capping of the pool" cash limit exercise was intended to be a once-and-for-all dispensation of the limited funds available for higher education sector in the public sector. Delegations from polytechnics such as Kingston, Middlesex and North East London have been officially told that nothing can be done by the DES to restore damaging cuts.

But the draft interim report of a DES committee seeking a successor to last year's funding arrangements has now suggested that the 1980-81 distribution could be "reopened" and the allocations to individual local authorities adjusted in next year's distribution.

In its report the committee, chaired by DES assistant secretary

## Mr Stephen Jones, says the decision to reopen the 1980-81 exercise is

hardest hit by the new cash-limit system imposed on local authority budgets this year may have some of the cuts restored, according to a confidential report produced by the Department of Education and Science.

Any restoration of the cuts would be enthusiastically welcomed by the institutions and authorities hardest hit. But the DES committee has been unable to reach agreement on the details of a new funding method for colleges in 1981-82.

Local authority and union representatives on the committee this week rejected a DES proposal to introduce national average unit costs next year to help determine how much money authorities maintaining polytechnics and colleges should receive. The DES side, on the other hand, described an earlier three-party plan drawn up by Mr John Bevan, deputy education officer of the Inner London Education Authority, as "excessively complicated".

## AUT boycott dismays S. Africa

from Ray Kennedy

JOHANNESBURG

South African universities reacted with dismay this week to a decision by the Association of University Teachers to strengthen its boycott of appointments in the country.

Professor Daniel du Plessis, vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, said that he was distressed to hear of the decision which was "totally illogical" and "entirely unwarranted".

At its meeting in Liverpool last week the AUT's recommendation that British universities should sever links with the black and African universities, but retain contact with English speaking universities, was

endorsed as an effective action against apartheid was "a total loss" on any form of contact with South African universities and with Professor du Plessis said he had not heard officially of the AUT decision.

"I am most distressed it is totally illogical and the members of the AUT are not illogical people," Wits, South Africa's largest English language university, has been the target of efforts to pressure it to sever links with the Government's policy of apartheid.

Government approval for the establishment of the Centre for Analysis of Technical Change (CATCH), a joint venture by the Social Science and Science Research Councils, is expected to be announced within the next few days after a delay of several weeks.

During the first five years of the venture starting in 1980-81, the two research councils have each agreed to contribute £525,000. The Leverhulme Trust has agreed to provide initial funding of £1.5m.

The two research councils have also each agreed to a commitment for a second five-year period.

It is the long-term financial commitment by the two research councils which is believed to have worried DES ministers. They are believed to suspect that the money being earmarked for CATCH could be used instead for significant additional research projects.

## No change in poly control says Boyson



The polytechnics will not be allowed to escape from local authority control in the near future, Dr Rhodes Boyson, Under-Secretary for Higher Education, told yesterday.

Speaking at the Association of Polytechnic Teachers' annual council at the Polytechnic of Central London, Dr Boyson said he found it hard to envisage two national funding bodies which would not be too similar to be justifiable.

In a speech which appears to rule out national control along the lines favoured by the APP, Dr Boyson insisted that the polytechnics would continue to be funded for the present within the public sector in its existing form.

Local authority control may on occasions be thought inappropriate to a service responding to national needs, he said, but it was undesirable that polytechnics "had believed their present status on the basis of support from their local education authorities which had developed them while continuing to reflect the needs of the surrounding communities."

"If they were to believe the status they deserved, the polytechnics would offer a genuine alternative to universities. One of the biggest obstacles facing them is the idea that they are not universities."

Adult literacy should not be considered in the move being made by some local education authorities to create self-financing adult education programmes, Dr Boyson said earlier in the week.

Speaking to a conference organized by The Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit in London, he said: "Unlike some areas where adult education this area can never be self-supporting. It is distasteful and different."

"The students are economically and socially disadvantaged as well as educationally disadvantaged. It can be expensive in resources but it is essential to preserve the adult literacy service for these reasons."

Dr Boyson went on to say that raising standards for adult literacy students would only mean diverting funds which are in need. He added that special thanks must be given to the 40,000 volunteers a year who help in adult literacy.

The Government recognized the voluntary role which voluntary organizations played in the adult literacy field, but he said that the voluntary body must be supported by the local education authority in its support.

## Secret deal may break lecturers' pay deadlock

by David Jobbins and Olga Wolitas

Tough talking between the university lecturers and their employers has led to a secret deal which could resolve the difficulties over their 1979 pay deal.

No details of the agreement reached in Committee A—the first stage of the negotiating process—have been disclosed. But one likely outcome could be a withdrawal of the reference to the Clegg Commission and a directly-negotiated last instalment payable on October 1 to round off the 1979 settlement.

The Office of Manpower Economics has frozen university work for the university lecturers' reference pending a decision by Association of University Teachers and the employers on whether to press ahead or not.

The Department of Education, which is currently vetting the deal thrashed out in Committee A, is understood to have indicated it would raise no objections if there was joint agreement on a withdrawal of the reference.

The DES response to the deal will not be known until a meeting is called of Committee B—where the union and employers sit together in

across-the-table talks with Government representatives.

No dates are yet being suggested for a Committee B meeting, and there has often been considerable variation of the time elapsing between the two stages.

In this instance the complexity of the situation—theoretically demanding a longer interval—is countered by the acknowledged need to complete the 1979 settlement before it becomes too closely involved with the 1980 negotiations.

Failure to reach agreement at the second stage could lead to arbitration.

There were no signs that the confusion over college lecturers' pay would be resolved this week.

Reinforced by the tough stance taken by delegates at Nuthall's annual conference this week, union leaders are standing firm against any attempt by the employers to claw back the 4 per cent "overpayment" from the 18.2 per cent deal ratified before Professor Hugh Clegg admitted his error.

The admission should not be used as an excuse for holding up the deal, they said. But there was no indication Mr John Wordie, chairman of the Burnham Committee, was likely to speed up sending official notification of the post-Clegg

## Audit expected to bear out complaints about poly

The latest audit report on Huddersfield Polytechnic is understood to reinforce earlier criticisms of costly spending and of managerial decisions.

Inquiries by Kirklees borough council staff, led by director of finance Mr Peter Sherman, have now been completed. Circulation of the findings to members of the council's policy sub-committee is imminent.

All interim report dealing with some polytechnic departments alleged financial and other irregularities, and sparked off a row between the polytechnic and the council.

## Working party vet proposals for new-style Kingston poly

by Paul Flather

Kingston Polytechnic governors have set up a working party to investigate proposals to convert the college into a higher-quality quality college, and other courses related to industry and commerce.

The proposals were made by the Kingston local education authority in the form of an invitation to consider alternative proposals to convert the college's current cash crisis and secure its future.

This year the college lost £1m from its budget estimate because of the "capping" of the advanced and further education pool. The budget deficit of almost £10m was itself cut by 10 per cent by the L.E.A.

Other proposals suggested by the L.E.A. in a two-page resolution were to close three out of the five polytechnic sites, and to restrict all future plans to existing resources and materials.

Dr Alan Matterson, the deputy director of Kingston, said: "The question for us is how to cope next year when we expect to lose another £2.5m on our estimates. These proposals are a natural and healthy response in considering that question."

He said the polytechnic itself was opposed to any major change in the nature of the institution. "We

in a move designed to end the bitter wrangling over the accuracy of the report and any action necessary to remedy defects, the council has called for the existing relationship agreement between the polytechnic and Kirklees to be formally abandoned.

The new audit report, which covers departments not investigated in the first inquiry, has so far been seen only by a handful of council officials. Informed sources say it draws attention to the same urgent need to tighten up financial management control systems, which formed the basis of Mr Sherman's earlier findings.

The debate will have the dual function of encouraging the Government to make a decision on the Government and forcing the Labour Party to make its position clear. The Shadow Cabinet will discuss the issue early next week.

Labour members are hopeful of attracting substantial support from the Government benches because some 30 Conservatives have signed three Early Day motions, all critical of the introduction of full-cost fees.

The Government is unlikely to make a detailed response to the criticisms contained in the Select Committee reports during the debate. That will come in a Command Paper, which is not likely to be published for several months.

Reaction to the two reports has been generally favourable, although the National Union of Students' president elect, Mr David Aaronovitch, criticised the counter-charge for failing to provide proper guidance on Britain's role in the education of foreign students.

The United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student Affairs gave the report a guarded welcome, while the Overseas Students' Trust was more enthusiastic about the recommendations for further discussion of the issues involved.

Sir Robert Biley, president of the World University Service, noted on the reference to refugee students contained in the education committee's report to demand that refugees be charged at the home rate. Any bursary scheme would not be too late to help the hurt of refugees likely to require higher education in September, he said.

## Overseas students' fees for debate

by John O'Leary

MPs are to debate the issue of overseas students' fees next week in the first test of Parliamentary opinion since Conservatives joined their Labour colleagues in criticising the Government in two Select Committee reports on the subject.

The "unfair and arbitrary" decision to impose full-cost fees "is one of the topics selected by Labour leaders for time at their disposal on Opposition Supply Day next Thursday."

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## Inspector warns of course closures

Duplicated courses in the weaker institutions will have to close if excellence is to be preserved in higher education, a leading member of the Department of Education and Science Inspectorate has warned.

Mrs Pauline Perry, staff inspector for higher education, said a meeting of the Standing Conference on Educational Development Services in Polytechnics such action would be necessary to save the stronger institutions.

"In a period of expansion you can afford to sail 20 boats on the same course, but in a period of stable state you cannot allow the same duplication of effort. We have to look where excellence lies and where it must be preserved. And cuts should allow each institution to preserve its strengths", she said.

Mrs Perry's remarks at the meeting at Plymouth Polytechnic will be seen as a new warning to colleges and institutes of higher education whose diversified courses clash with existing provision in the universities and polytechnics.

But Mr Leslie Gilbert, assistant director of the Council for Educational Technology, said that one should not forget the desirability of local provision of courses, especially for students in mid-career or with family ties.

"What we need is a network of course provision", he said. "An open network where weaker courses are backed up by stronger courses through diversified aids, an open network which people must be made aware of and which must be validated from above. I do not think the DES are aware of this need or of the means to meet it."

He said it was not so much a case of having to close courses in the present economic climate, but of making them more cost-effective. In this he saw the role of organizations like SCEDSP and the CET as an important one for the future.

Even though the CET were to have their grant cut by one third he did not think their existence would be threatened. "We have reason to believe that educational technology can improve cost-effectiveness", he said.

Trevor Habeshaw, chairman of the conference, backed up these views. "If Pauline Perry is talking of a hard-core of courses with a higher intake than in any other region, people would have to give up their courses so that other courses could preserve their reputation for excellence, then she would not have our backing."

"We think that instead of having to take these measures they should be more co-operation and make them available locally. Why should people have to travel great distances as a precept for taking a course?"

Our difficulty in trying to get people to share educational aids is that many lecturers and teachers do not like their students to use other people's materials."

In his speech to the conference Mr Gilbert took the argument further against a centralized, institution-based higher education system. "The traditional structure of school, college, university, polytechnic, was one that belonged to an industrial age of 100 years ago."

Through the use of such aids as the Post Office's Prestel system, Open University and other educational programmes on television, radio, public libraries which provide access to all books in the British Library, telephone tutors and seminars, and video recordings, one could know more about a topic than most experts in the country.

"I am not saying that colleges, universities and polytechnics should disappear but I am saying that they will have to change, that they will have to link to a national network, client-orientated, not institution-centred", he said.

Fineston ladders-and-bridges plan praised by adult council

The Fineston Ladders-and-bridges plan, which provides for the continuing education and training needs of engineers, is praised by the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education in its report to the report of the inquiry into the engineering profession.

The Government should give serious attention to the committee's "impressive handling" of the need for continuing provision, and the proposed engineering education should be entrusted with a clear remit to develop this critically important area, the council urges.

The report's arguments based on the increasing rate of change which will be needed in engineering skills and competences cannot be underestimated, the response says.

In this engineering is no different from other professions except in the degree to which the nation's economy and therefore its general well-being depends on its manufacturing industries and consequently on the continued improvement of our engineers' knowledge and skills."

The council also commends the report's proposals for "ladders and bridges" among the three registered categories of engineers and between the academic and practical sectors of the engineering profession.

These proposals again emphasize the importance of training education as a continuing process, it says.

In addition it praises the committee's identification of the mutual value of continuing formation to

engineers and their employers and the recommendation for a statutory right to paid study leave for all registered engineers.

The advisory council welcomes the setting up of regional engineering centres provided they do not duplicate the exclusive providers of continuing education and training.

"It would be to the detriment of other institutions to be excluded from the experience to be gained through making this kind of provision, and it would militate against the geographical accessibility of continuing formation, which is a definition should be available when and where required during the course of an engineering career", it says.

It also supports the value which the Fineston report attaches to distance learning methods as to which can reach large numbers of people relatively cheaply.

The Government is studying the possibility of using retired engineers to help train a new generation of young qualified engineers for industry, Lord Trenchard, Minister of State for Industry, said this week.

Opening the standing conference for the Schools, Science and Technology Council, Mr Trenchard said: "I am sure that there is too great an imbalance between the turnover from schools and universities and the requirements of the nation with too many administrators and not enough engineers and graduates in technical subjects."

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In 1979 he was appointed Tutor and Fellow in Engineering at St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

He will take over from Trent's first director, Mr Ron Hadley, who plans to retire in December.

Dr Freeman, who moved to Sunderland only four years ago, was chosen from a shortlist of four candidates—understood to include the director of another Northern polytechnic and one of his deputies.

## Industry decline threatens college jobs

by Paul Flather

More than 200 lecturing jobs in Wales could disappear within the next two years because of the rapid run-down of the steel and coal industries in the area.

Regional officers of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education are convinced that with some 50,000 agreed redundancies looming by 1982, the number of students sent to colleges will decline significantly.

Mr Phil Thomas, a member of the National Council of Nafhe and a lecturer at Bridgend College of Technology, said the closure of two pits in the area had already put 12 lecturing posts under threat.

Both the National Coal Board and the British Steel Corporation sponsor large numbers of apprentices and trainees at further education colleges.

Mr Thomas said the NCB had cut the number of students sent on the Mining and Industry basic studies course this year from 1,750 to 350. With some 30 pit closures expected in the next few years, the number could disappear altogether, he said.

"There is absolutely no doubt that once pits start closing, and the steel works start laying off people, the number of students at colleges will fall drastically. Local authorities will be forced to consider redundancies", he said.

Two pits, Wyndham Western and Coegnant, out of four pits which usually send students to Bridgend College, are to be closed. The NCB sponsors about 200 of the 3,000 students at Bridgend. The pattern was being repeated all over Wales, he said.

Redundancies in the steel industry mean 150 lecturing jobs will be at risk. The decision by ISC not to use Welsh-produced coal means 12 pits will close at the end of the year putting up to another 75 jobs at risk, he said.

Nafhe faces a long and difficult battle in Wales trying to preserve jobs against the background of rapidly declining industry. But it was a problem that needed urgent consideration, he said.

Southampton University has launched an appeal to support its new art and photographic gallery. The John Hansard Gallery will be housed in a building originally erected at the university in the mid-1950s for a research project. Conversion will cost £153,000, of which £66,000 has already been raised.

Overseas fees fund launched

by Olga Wojtas  
Scottish Correspondent

The principal of Edinburgh University has condemned government policy on overseas students' fees as deplorable, saying that the opportunity for entry to British universities largely by talent alone has been superseded.

Dr John Burnett was speaking at the university's international students' fund launch, an appeal to provide scholarships for overseas students who cannot take up places at Edinburgh for financial reasons.

The principal and the Rector, Father Anthony Ross, both hoped that as many people as possible would contribute to the fund, which Dr Burnett said that in the meantime he and his fellow principals and vice chancellors would continue their efforts to persuade the government of the need to think again.

It was true, said Dr Burnett, that in recent years the number of overseas students in Britain had risen significantly and people in universities expressed within successive parliaments through the later 1960s and 70s about the extent to which this country could afford an increasing subvention of students from overseas. Suggestions had been made by vice chancellors and principals as to how public interests might be reconciled with the freedom of scholarship. Among these was the thought that some form of acceptable quota might be agreed.

But recent policy had eliminated any choice other than that by bank balance.

Universities were and should be in the business of educating the best minds as well as they could. Irrespective of geographical origins, it was and always had been a pleasure to welcome to Scotland the talented students from overseas whose presence and work here had helped to advance the university of scholarship.

"Within 20 years of Edinburgh University's foundation in 1583, students from outside Scotland were already attending its classes and by the beginning of the nineteenth century it was playing host to students from all over the globe", he said. "It is a sad time at present when the contribution of this tradition is threatened by the new high fees policy."

Halfway help for ex-prisoners who want to continue courses

by Charlotte Barry

A halfway house to provide short-term accommodation and tutorial support for ex-prisoners who want to continue educational activities begun in prison is to be set up in North London by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

The 15 ex-prisoners, women and men, an immediate release from Holloway and Pentonville jails, will range from those needing adult literacy teaching to those wanting to go on to further education college, polytechnic or university.

A vital element of the new project will be the close links with the two prisons. Some of the teaching at the unit will be done by education staff at Holloway and Pentonville to ensure continuity while the ex-prisoners adjust to living outside.

Premises for the new unit, which will be based on the North London further education college, will be shared with the New Islington and Hackney Housing Association which will then lease the building to NACRO.

The project will be set up initially as a day centre this autumn by a part-time education worker paid by the Inner London Education Authority. A full-time organizer/tutor will be appointed by the ILA at the beginning of next year to run the fully residential unit.

Care staff will be paid by the Home Office, which will also be providing a deficit grant. Other agencies involved will be Holloway adult education institute, the Inner London probation service, and the prison education service.

Plans for the new project are based heavily on NACRO's Cambridge education unit which is being forced to close at the end of August because of lack of funds. Set up in 1974 with money from charitable trusts, the unit was taken over in 1977 by the Home Office on the understanding that another relevant body take over responsibility after three years.

Cambridgeshire, a local education authority, which has already made heavy cuts to its adult education programme, has refused to support the unit.

During that time the unit provided teaching for O and A level for up to 20 women and men, 10 of whom lived at the premises based on a terrace house in Cambridge. Students came from all over the country, and there were roughly seven applications for each available place. Of the 67 students who passed through the unit between 1974 and 1978, eight went on to further education, five to advanced education, one to teacher training, one to a training apprenticeship course and 15 to jobs.

Manchester plea for funds

The University of Manchester, viewed in its broadest sense, had 50,000 students, Sir Arthur Armitage, the vice-chancellor, told the Council in his last annual report before retirement.

He said there was an "apparent university" which catered for more than 11,000 full-time students but also a "broader university" which provided for thousands of people from all walks of life who attended extra-mural and post-experience courses.

On top of this the university attracted more than 100 research grants and contracts, collaborated in work with industry and medical services to the general public and in library services, the museum, art gallery and

theatre, the university press, job bank and the regional computing centre.

"I would therefore ask you to remind those who stand outside the university world of the complete involvement of our staff and the involvement of our many spheres of activity in many spheres of life. We seek not special treatment but recognition of the true nature of the financial uncertainty all sectors of the university face reduction."

"Despite the financial difficulties, we have continued to be able to make new appointments within the limits of our resources and the limits of our financial difficulties have in no way compromised our production procedures."

Dr Derek Davies, the senior law tutor, will stand in as acting master. He will take over as vice-master from Dr John Martin, tutor in metallurgy and the science of materials.

"We have made no formal announcement of a year before a candidate with majority support is found," said Dr Martin.

Dr Martin, an eminent law tutor, was elected master in 1963 when the college was founded. He will stay on as a supervisory fellow to continue his research.

Independent transfer service proposed

An independent information service to assist transfers in higher and further education is to be set up by the DES-funded team headed by Mr Peter Toyns at Exeter University, recommended that a national information service be set up with central funds. Later the proposed system would be essentially self-financing.

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## NELP staff asked to back sanctions

by David Jobbins

Lecturers at North East London Polytechnic's Barking site are being asked if they will back sanctions to save the applied economics department.

Applied economics is the only department, being threatened with total closure, in the latest version of the plan. The development plan drawn up to meet the severe cutbacks required by the polytechnic's three funding authorities.

The other departments including mathematics, sociology and humanities have been spared. But the plan, compiled by a special committee of governors set up to examine the earlier controversial proposals and a less radical alternative produced by the academic

calls for a far-ranging restructuring of the polytechnic's facilities and the closure of a number of weaker courses.

The reorganization is called for as a result of a firm decision to withdraw from the Waltham Forest precinct, where the environmental studies faculty is based.

Director Dr George Brosnan says that while there is no timetable for the withdrawal as yet it is no longer "theoretical".

The governors are to meet to discuss the plan on June 20, but the Barking branch, where applied economics is based, have already met to reject it.

They voted in favour of a boycott of student assessment procedures in applied economics if governors endorsed the plan to agree to make staff redundant. They also backed a tougher resolution supporting a staff boycott of first and second year examinations in the department if it is requested by the students involved.

But neither got the majority of all branch members entitled to vote required under union rules. Before negotiations can be adopted, new petitions are circulating seeking support for the sanctions in an attempt to secure the necessary majority.

Sixty-two contingency redundancies have been officially notified, but Dr Brosnan is hopeful that a premature retirement compensation scheme for lecturers can be applied economics if governors endorsed the plan to agree to make staff redundant. They also backed a tougher resolution supporting a staff boycott of first and second year examinations in the department if it is requested by the students involved.

The possibility of declining numbers of overseas students and reduction in demand for home students from the mid-1980s are present an opportunity for reversing this trend, the CPRS believes. It could be made clear that the only alternative to reduced funding is an increase in part-time and mature student numbers.

Another initiative in the field of continuing education could be taken through pay negotiations with teaching unions, the report says. Permanent members of staff should be obliged to do some of their teaching during the evenings or at weekends, rather than leaving this work to part-timers, who are invariably the first victims of staff cuts.

Education, training and industrial performance, a report by the Central Policy Review Staff, HMSO £4.25.

Major changes proposed for lecturers

by John O'Leary

Sweeping changes in lecturers' conditions of service are proposed in a report by the Government's "Think Tank" on links between education, training and industrial performance.

The Central Policy Review Staff considers that there is no single issue on which a Government initiative could achieve dramatic results. Now does the Government have to control either education and training, the report says.

But a number of extensions to the current requirements for teachers in further and higher education are advocated. The introduction of student loans is also favoured, with the recommendation that a full study of their advantages and disadvantages be submitted for consideration by ministers.

The report, *Education, Training and Industrial Performance*, criticizes universities particularly for their attitude to part-time and mature students. Many are sceptical about the standards such students can achieve and "open to prefer to lower entry standards for school leavers, rather than trying to attract more part-timers or older candidates."

"We think this is not only discriminatory in a way which is hard to justify but harmful to other educational establishments whose traditional student clientele is being 'poached' by the report says. "And it contributes to the present whereby young people who would previously have been recruited at 18 go on to achieve degrees of limited value which give them applications for a level of work at which they cannot perform effectively."

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David Jobbins and Paul Flather report from the Natfhe conference in Scarborough

## Union sets itself a realistic course for the dangerous 1980s

by Peter Scott  
The keynote of Natfhe's annual conference in Scarborough over the Bank Holiday weekend was a new seriousness. This was expressed in a negative way by the peremptory defeat of the ultra-leftist, rank and file faction on issue after issue, and in a positive sense by an impressive speech from the general secretary, Peter Dawson, which set a quiet but decisive way for the conference, and perhaps the association, on a constructive and realistic course for the dangerous 1980s.

This danger was the key to the new mood. Already more than 300 redundancies in further and higher education have been formally notified to Natfhe. Many more informal redundancies are taking place by the manipulation of early retirement schemes. On the surface the prospect is only a little brighter, with the 1979 settlement still in the balance following the Clegg fiasco while in a longer perspective the foundations of Houghton continue to be gnawed away by cash

limits and inflation. In this menacing climate the patience of most delegates with the activities of the ultra left was strictly limited. Rank and file's endemic taste for political theatre rather than down-to-earth industrial relations was not appreciated at Scarborough. Motion after motion from Outer London region, the suburban heartland of the ultras, was defeated or watered down. On the sanctions to be applied in the fight against redundancies their words, motion which aimed to commit Natfhe to a long shopping list of specific sanctions (from refusal to mark examinations to using the health and safety "rulebook" to its limits) made less fire, and less naive, by an Inner London amendment. "A novel of a resolution which we are trying to turn into a short story," Roger Jinkinson of Inner London called it. He did not say he was changing the ending as well.

On salaries policy for 1981—a distant goal indeed in the Clegg confusion—the ultras suffered a similar defeat. They attempted to

commit Natfhe to an immediate demand to merge the Lecturer 1 and Lecturer 2 scales a proposal which the leadership has always disliked for tactical reasons. Instead the conference confirmed the existing policy of seeking automatic transfer between the two grades.

The Rank and File minority also tried to commit the association to a narrowing of differentials. This too the leadership successfully

opposed on the grounds that it would undermine Houghton, in these Tory times the golden calf of Natfhe salary policy, and in particular damage the interests of Natfhe members in higher education whose salaries had to be compared to those of university teachers.

And so it went on. The ultras' brief moment of satisfaction came

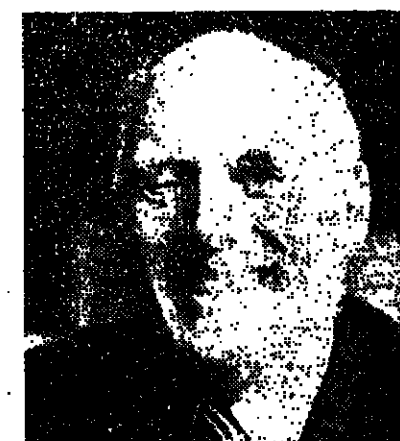
when about 100 walked out during the speech by Mr Neil Macfarlane MP under the aegis of the DES. One delegation perhaps more imaginatively held up their newspapers in a row to express their dislike (most *Guardians* and *Morning Stars*, only one *THES*). But even this demonstration was tinged with farce. A cockerel being used by a magician in the succeeding show crowded discreetly but audibly during Mr Macfarlane's far from exciting speech, and when the Minister left at speed to catch his train, he had to push his way up the gangway against a tide of returning demonstrators.

It was Mr Dawson's low-key professionalism rather than the antics of the ultras which seemed much closer to the mood of the delegates. He had two simple messages for Natfhe. First, he urged the association to continue to place the highest priority on educational questions. If our system of FE and non-university higher education was not got right, the pay and conditions of Natfhe members could not be got right either.

Secondly, he appealed for unity—a vain appeal, no doubt to the Rank and File faction, but perhaps not to vain to the squabbling Lab and Communist elements in Natfhe's "establishment". Natfhe, he pointed out, was a heterogeneous union, it was not a federation between FE and HE, Left and Right, north and the metropolitan area. "That is not our tradition. It is not where our future lies," a sentiment which, a surprisingly large part of the conference seemed to agree.

The message of Scarborough seemed to be that Natfhe should avoid the ultra-leftist well tried but perhaps not very spectacular policies to fight its two great battles—against redundancies and in defence of Houghton. The "crisis" of further and higher education has done nothing to help the cause of the ultras in the association. Indeed the opposite seems to be happening. Natfhe is having a collective mind, concentrated, though it has never really wanted far.

**natfhe**



Natfhe's new president, Mr. Jim Richardson (above) officially began his duties at the end of conference. Among newcomers to the executive is Mr. David Triesman, one of the leading figures of student union militancy in the late 1960s.

## Action on redundancies threatens exams

College lecturers are considering a series of actions including the first time the disruption of exams, as they prepare to step up their campaign against possible redundancies.

Natfhe pledged itself to fight all redundancies, but reserved its severest criticism for those local education authorities, including Trafford, who were engaging on a national agreement to give at least one year's notice before any dismissal.

More than 300 notifications of redundancy have been received by the union, including 62 from the North East London Polytechnic, 60 from the North London Polytechnic, 35 from the Lancashire, 35 from the Trafford, and 21 from the West Surrey College of Art and Design.

Six polytechnics have approached the union to begin discussions about redundancies. These are Brighton, Kingston, Middlesex, North Staffordshire, NELP, and Wolverhampton, which has since withdrawn a notice for up to 80 redundancies.

Trafford was bitterly attacked by delegates from all sides in an emergency motion passed overwhelmingly. It was condemned for its "blatant use of invidious methods" in seeking staff reductions without honouring the nationally agreed 1973 Redundancy Procedures Agreement (revised in 1975) to give a year's notice.

The union has now called a special meeting for June 4 of the National Joint Council, which negotiates conditions of service with local education authorities, to discuss the status of the union.

Delegates condemned the increases in overseas student fees and called for a campaign of sustained pressure on the Government to withdraw them.

But they turned down a hard-line demand that lecturers should continue to teach students who had not paid the new fee levels, and should refuse to tell the Home Office and college managers of any students who failed to pay.

General Secretary Mr Peter Dawson warned this would put individual members in the firing line.

A suggestion that lecturers should back any action taken by the National Union of Students on the issue was also thrown out. Mr Roy Balde (Anglia) said it would be a great mistake to give a blank cheque on action which depended on decisions of another body.

Calling for "tough action" Mr Marilyn Moss (Outer London) said the effect of the Government's policy was to make it impossible for courses to continue to run and for staff to be employed.

The future of institutions and lecturers' jobs is at stake because of the chronic way higher education is financed, Mr Dawson claimed. Mr Dawson said: "Everyone except the Government national body for financing public now recognizes the need for a sector higher education."

of the agreement. The union believes the Government's policy has been seriously undermined. Mr Christopher Mintz, secretary of the north-west region, told the conference the NEC would lose all credibility if Trafford was allowed to get away with this. "It's a case of Trafford today, and you tomorrow," he said.

"If you saw the faces of those people who were being laid off, you would know. Trafford is so blind that it cannot see what it is doing to higher education."

An offer last week from Trafford to withdraw redundancy notices if the union accepted a voluntary deployment of 16 members was quickly rejected.

Delegates were also warned against i.e.s who were using premature Retirement Compensation to make redundancies. Lecturers were being tempted to leave the posts were being "disestablished".

Mr Peter Dawson, Natfhe's general secretary, told delegates that "Tea-chers are often accused of crying wolf. I hope that I am crying wolf, but I am afraid I am not."

He warned that a "series of fights" lay ahead, but the union would not hide from them. "We have said we want them out in the open."

At a press conference he said the reduction in staff, as a result of public demonstrations, and even the disruption of examinations, was now being gradually eroded.

## Pledge to combat cuts by withholding information

College lecturers will take no part in the implementation of cuts in educational services. They will refuse to provide information for anyone carrying out cuts and ignore all "prioritization" studies.

The union unanimously condemned all cuts, and promised to support all legitimate industrial action, including if necessary, the use of industrial sanctions to back their case.

Mr Peter Dawson, the general secretary, told delegates that over the past few months a slow struggle of higher education had begun, authority by authority, college by college.

He attacked the Government for failing to give any indication of order and pattern to the chaotic provision of higher education, and for failing to provide more resources for higher education.

He said "capping the pool" of advanced and further education was not a phrase likely to demoralize, drive teachers to their banisters, or cause them to leave the profession. "But in this case it means the destruction of an existing, however imperfect, system of financing higher education."

## Lecturers attack Clegg pay deal holdup

Lecturers this week bitterly protested at the delay in implementing the 18.2 per cent pay rises arising from the Clegg report.

"Any idea of holding up the Clegg settlement can go," Natfhe general secretary Mr Peter Dawson told the union's annual conference in Scarborough.

Delegates emphatically passed an emergency resolution calling on all parties to honour the "firm agreement" on the Clegg rates agreed before Professor Clegg admitted to the Prime Minister that his recommendations were four per cent too generous.

Mr Dawson told the conference it was now the duty of the chairman of the Burnham committees, Mr John Wordie to send the agreement, to the Secretary of State to complete the statutory process. "We will expect that to be done."

There is speculation that Mr Wordie may be delaying sending the notification of the deal until the employers decide on their stance.

Natfhe executive member Mr John Bellie told delegates: "The association calls on all parties to fulfil their statutory duties... and to honour their recent firm commitment."

In saying this teachers are not assuming a wish to hang on to an accidental gain, a windfall to which they are not entitled."

In a stern warning reflecting the angry mood of delegates at the delay, Mr Bellie said: "The employers need to walk very carefully the next few weeks if they wish to preserve a working higher, and further education system."

And Mr Dawson said: "If there is any justification for the reservations expressed by management, it is that the deal is not

accepted—the employers had already said that talks on the 1980 offer of 13 per cent were the place where it should be sorted out.

The £130m error arose in the comparisons of graduate entrants to teaching and to other occupations.

The "monstrous nonsense" was that schoolteachers were going to be penalised throughout their careers by "having the temerity" to spend a fourth year in training, Mr Dawson said.

Delegates then went on to establish the broad outline of their 1981 pay policy—based on a return to the principles of the 1974 Houghton report.

The conference also called for the immediate repeal of the Remuneration of Teachers Act and the transfer of salary negotiations to the new National Joint Council which currently deals only with conditions of service.

Delegates rejected "moves" to change policy of flat-rate pay increases and a single lecturer scale spanning the three lowest pay grades.

But they called on the national executive to treat the lecturer 1/lecturer 2 merger as a matter of urgency.

And against the advice of the executive they voted to demand 11 per cent per month "interest" on any future retrospective pay awards.

The executive also agreed in principle to a proposal that years spent in child care should count in the same way for incremental credit as time spent gaining educational, industrial and professional experience.

Union leaders suffered a defeat when delegates voted in favour of teaching a high priority to a policy of "established" fractional appointments in place of short-term hourly paid part-time contracts.

## 'Mandatory' call for adult education

The union called on the Government to make adult education in Britain mandatory, and to produce immediate legislation to ensure "paid leave" for all adult students.

Natfhe attacked the lack of any "clear Government policy on the training and retraining of adult workers, and the run-down of programmes for those over 19 years of age in a period of high adult unemployment."

Delegates were told that studies revealed that five local education authorities had seriously eroded the provision of adult education as part of public spending cuts. This was likely to increase to one in two in the coming year because the service was "easy pickings."

Mr Gordon Stokes, vice-chairman of the national adult education committee, told the conference some local education authorities, including Humberstone, West Glamorgan, and Herefordshire, had cut adult education to the bone.

## Hard-line Macfarlane gets the bird

Schools and colleges unable to offer a satisfactory range of courses because of falling rolls will have to consider closure, Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Under-Secretary for Education, told the conference.

He stressed the importance of vocational training, and work experience programmes for the 16 to 18 age group, who tended to "bear the brunt of any unemployment is on the increase."

Schools and colleges had to work together more closely than in the past. Some would have to face closure, others with change into sixth form, others with a new emphasis on vocational education.

About 120 delegates, a third of whom were women, walked out as soon as Mr Macfarlane began speaking in favour of a "hard-line" government education policy. Others read newspapers throughout the speech, a stray comment about the "bird" was the loudest protest.

North American News

## 'Disturbing statistics' in race relations survey at Harvard

from Clive Cookson

WASHINGTON  
The admissions programme at Harvard, which was singled out for praise by the United States Supreme Court in its 1978 Bakke ruling, created widespread doubts about the academic ability of the university's black students. This is the conclusion of a multi-racial student-faculty committee after a thorough two-year investigation of race relations at Harvard.

"These doubts represent a particularly serious problem in race relations at Harvard because they challenge the very right of minorities to be at Harvard and to be full members of the Harvard community," the committee on race relations says in its report.

Dean of students, Archie Epps, who chaired the committee, said its "unique descriptive analysis of race relations within a college" yielded "both grounds for optimism and some disturbing statistics."

Its survey of 1,300 Harvard undergraduates showed that 62 per cent of black students felt minority applicants do not receive enough special consideration in the admissions process, while 85 per cent of whites believe minorities receive

enough or too much consideration. However, a majority of blacks and whites agree that the admissions system often creates doubts about the academic ability of minorities. "To some extent such doubts are the result of a long legacy of theories of biological racism," the committee said. But such doubts are also created by the debate over current admissions policies that include race as a "tipping factor". Although we support such policies, it must be recognized that this issue has a negative side to it in that it sometimes improves the position of minorities at Harvard are less qualified."

Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, in his deciding opinion in the Bakke reverse discrimination case, held up Harvard's admissions programme as a model for obtaining a racially diverse student body without excluding any white students on grounds of race alone. Being a member of a minority is just one of many "plus factors" that may tip the balance in favour of a particular applicant. According to the report, that, contrary to the widespread concern about extensive "racial separation" at Harvard, there is actually a high degree of social integration. For

## Compromise after opposition destroys committee's CIA charter

The comprehensive charter for the Central Intelligence Agency laboriously constructed by the Senate select committee on Intelligence and unvoted three months ago, is dead. The elaborate com-

promise represented by the charter fell apart, under pressure from conservatives who said it would create the CIA on much and from liberals who felt it did not provide sufficient guarantees of civil liberties.

Instead, the committee passed a far simpler Bill establishing the rules by which Congress would oversee the CIA. Unlike the defunct charter, the bill contains no prohibition on the use of academics and students as intelligence agents. It leaves the CIA free to use universities (as well as churches and the media) as cover for its activities.

However, civil libertarians were not too displeased with the measure, because it would not "unleash" the CIA as much as conservatives wanted. For example it would leave intact the right of scholars and others to obtain documents from the CIA under the Freedom of Information Act. Several senators had proposed amendments to the charter that would have exempted the agency from the act.

The full Senate and the House of Representatives still have to approve the new Intelligence Oversight Bill.

Geoff Maslen reports from Australia

## Northern territory plans university

The Northern Territory government wants to establish Australia's 20th university in the territory's capital, Darwin, by 1982—in the face of opposition from the Commonwealth government and university staff associations.

The Territory's chief minister, Mr Everingham, said his Cabinet had endorsed the principle "as a matter of high priority" despite the unlikelihood of federal funding, a tentative name has been already selected: The Charles Darwin University of the Northern Territory.

A spokesman for the Commonwealth Department of Education, said no approach had been made to the federal government or the tertiary education committee on regarding the new university proposal, but he noted its chances of approval as slight.

The general secretary of the Federation of University Staff Associations, Mr Les Wallis, said FAUSA has a policy against the

establishment of new universities at a time when existing universities were facing further cuts in funding.

The Territory government has called for a report on the possible structure of the new university, and has asked Professor William Walker, head of the Australian Administrative Staff College to investigate. Professor Walker told the *THES* he had visited Darwin and looked at possible sites and had discovered strong support for the idea of a new university among leading citizens and higher education administrators.

He said it was likely the university would be set up as a "comprehensive university" along the lines of the state-wide university systems of Alaska and Hawaii which were well suited to remote and developed areas and which included both traditional campuses and community college campuses.

If a multi-campus university was

established it would be most likely based at the present Darwin community college which already offers degree courses. The other institutions which might be involved were at Alice Springs where there is an advanced education college and at Katherine which will shortly have an agricultural college.

Professor Walker said that within 10 years Darwin would have a population of 100,000 and the Northern Territory a population of 200,000—figures considerably greater than those of Tasmania where a university was set up there.

According to Mr Everingham, the Northern Territory needed a university which could offer courses and undertake research directly related to the problems and development opportunities of the Territory. He argued that Australia as a whole needed a university in the territory to develop and strengthen technical and cultural links with neighbouring countries in South-East Asia.

## Tasmanian solution to reduced funding

A University of Tasmania academic, Richard Davis, has devised a revolutionary proposal for solving the problem of reduced university funding.

He claims the suggestion would peacefully end the intractable resources of academic leadership, ambition and surplus purchasing power. Mr Davis claims that several Australian professors have voluntarily reduced themselves to reader status but that this idea would be too drastic.

"Professors," he says, "are invited to negotiate to reader level in remuneration only. The power, influence, authority and social position will remain and be reinforced by the proud title 'donor professor'."

Readership of existing seniority Davis suggests, "donor professors would take precedence over all non-

donors in academic processions and on formal occasions. Seniority and status would be indicated by the tasteful salutation of a silver dollar sign on the academic gown of each donor professor."

Davis argues that positions on university councils are currently reserved exclusively for donor professors so that eventually they would comprise the total professoriate of a university.

Then stage two would be implemented. Readers would be encouraged to reduce their salaries to suit the senior lecturer in return for the title 'associate professor'."

Undesirable side effects will be avoided by extracting written undertakings that none of the power, influence, authority of social position of real professors will be lost.

## Relief at universities as Quebec casts a 'no' vote

from our North American editor

The resounding "No" vote in the Quebec referendum came as a huge relief to the province's three English-speaking universities, where students' faculty members and administrators were overwhelmingly in support of the Parti Quebecois bid for a mandate to negotiate independence. But many members of the French-language institutions reacted with dismay to the unexpectedly heavy defeat suffered by Premier Rene Levesque.

Students and faculty at the French universities (Montreal, Laval, Sherbrooke and the University of Quebec system) were one of the main sources of support for Mr Levesque's campaign, and students made up a good part of the successful crowd at the Parti Quebecois supporters' riot at the Montreal stadium to hear the premier concede defeat after the vote was counted.

A survey at the University of Montreal showed that four students in five favoured the provincial government's plan to make Quebec a sovereign state in economic association with the rest of Canada. But the actual vote showed that only half of the French-speaking population as a whole favoured the 20 per cent English-speaking minority was assumed to have voted overwhelmingly "No".

The Canadian government, led by Pierre Trudeau, promised Quebecers that, if they voted "No", Ottawa would be willing to negotiate a revision of the present federal constitution of Canada and give more power to Quebec and the other nine provinces.

The referendum result seems to signify the continuation of Canada as an officially bilingual country. In practice, few Canadians, even the well-educated middle-class, speak both French and English well, and the latest report by Canada's official languages commissioner, Maxwell Yalden, blames

the country's universities for the lack of progress of bilingualism.

Mr Yalden said the universities' "lofty disregard" for bilingualism makes them "the weakest link" in Canada's language education system. "Their refusal to give any real sign that a knowledge of the other official language is of some value to the well-educated Canadian can only have a negative effect throughout the entire educational structure. A telling demonstration can be seen in the high schools, which are left in a state of bewilderment by the preponderance of intense interest in the second language at the lower levels and complete disregard for it from on high," he said.

In his third annual report to Parliament, the Commissioner said universities presidents would see how much more needed to be done when a new study of bilingualism, commissioned by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, was released. "They will find that French in our English-speaking universities and English in our French-speaking ones, might as well be obscure dialects from another planet for all the importance accorded them."

"It is surely clear enough that English-speaking university graduates in Quebec will need a sound knowledge of French if they are to enjoy reasonable career opportunities. It is equally clear that the best of high school training in French leaves something to be desired," he said.

In Ontario, the province with the largest French-speaking minority (about 450,000), the universities blame government funding restrictions for their inability to meet an increasing student demand for French language instruction.

Meanwhile, the Association of French-Speaking Students at Laurentian University in Ontario has launched a public campaign to persuade the province to set up a French-language university.

## Military academy given firm go-ahead

The government last week gave the go-ahead for establishing a counter-terrorist \$A70m services military academy.

A meeting of the joint government parties agreed to a compromise plan which places the service academy near Canberra's Duntroon College, but does not give it university status.

The decision ends more than two

years of bitter and emotional debate within the government.

The issue had created considerable tension and emotion in the party and was certain to remain a political issue in the lead up to the federal elections later this year. The original scheme intended the academy to be known as Taking University, to provide full tertiary training for navy, air and army cadets.

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## Overseas News

## Caste system causes campus problems

from A. S. Abraham

BOMBAY This is turning out to be a unique and hotter summer than usual for Indian universities, especially those in the north and north-east. In the north-east tribal "locals" and "outsiders" have attacked the use of non-tribal immigrant labour when local graduates cannot get jobs.

Their solution seems to be to have the "outsiders" who have taken most of the white-collar jobs, bunched not so that tribals can fill the vacancies. As the agitation intensifies in Assam, Manipal, Meghalaya, Tripura and elsewhere, daily life including the functioning of universities and colleges, is at a standstill.

In the north, the universities are facing a different set of problems. In the three populous and crucial states of the Hindi heartland—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh—higher education is plagued by bitter inter-caste antagonisms among students, faculty and management which often lead to violence and even killing.

An insight into the prevailing state of affairs is provided by the recent conference of vice-chancellors of 16 Uttar Pradesh universities in Lucknow, the state capital which recommended that universities should set up their own security forces, comprising teachers, non-teaching staff and student volunteers, so that it would not be necessary to call on the regular police to keep the peace on the campuses.

The vice-chancellors also proposed that bogus students be deterred from contesting student union elections where "staple" or aspirant politicians, often in their thirties or forties, continue to be on the rolls so as to be eligible for union posts.

But the most fractious, caste-ridden universities are those in Bihar, which is also the country's most hidebound state. The inter-caste warfare is so longstanding and bitter that the state government has now had to appoint officials of the Indian Administrative Service (the IAS, the post-independence successor of the Indian Civil Service or ICS that operated during

the Raj) to run five of Bihar's universities. The Kayasthas, the Bhumihars, the Brahmins, the Maithili Brahmins are some of the major castes at each other's throats. For the most part, the fighting is between the upper castes, chiefly the various Brahmin castes, and the middle castes, with the lower castes and the untouchables not even sufficiently represented in the university to be able to stake a claim to coveted posts and similar goodies.

The vice-chancellor of Patna University resigned a few weeks ago because he said he was not supported by the state governor (under the Indian system, the state governor is the chancellor of all the state's universities) in his attempt to tackle "inefficiency, insubordination, indiscipline and corruption".

His real grouse was that he was unable to have the principal of an affiliated college suspended because the latter, a Maithili Brahmin, has the support of Bihar politicians belonging to his caste who are in Mrs Gandhi's all-powerful Congress Party.

Sometimes, as in July last year, the police open fire on demonstrators. At least two students were killed and 40 people, including 30 policemen, injured in the melee when students threw bricks and crude bombs.

In New Delhi, the university scene is one of turbulence with teachers, non-teaching staff and student unions all in a state of active unrest. Delhi University recently began its annual examinations amid much trepidation whether they would be allowed to run, their course.

The non-teaching staff, known as "karmacharis", were on a prolonged strike to back a series of demands with support from some sections of teachers and students. The new vice-chancellor, who took office on April 3, was able to defuse the crisis. The "karmacharis" have held their strike in abeyance for two months by which time the vice-chancellor is expected to come up with "reasonable" proposals.

## Norway tries to swap oil for students

from Einar Odden

OSLO Norwegian authorities are ready to swap oil for openings at foreign universities for their students in order to combat soaring fees in Europe and North America. Norway is in desperate need of a large number of engineers and specialists in connection with the North Sea oil explorations. But lacks educational capacity at home.

Skyrocketing fees abroad have also made conventional funding of more than 6,000 Norwegian students abroad impossible in certain countries.

One year ago Norway had more than half of her 300 engineering students abroad in Great Britain. But at the drastic changes in the British fees this number is rapidly decreasing.

In the past, these students were fully funded by the government, but for the next year, the government has not been able to offer the students grants covering more than half of the expenses. Therefore, the government seeks help from industry.

Reaction towards the idea of having openings at foreign universities in this way have been rather critical from student leaders. Jan Farberg, president of the Association of Norwegian Students Abroad believes the solution is not a good one. "We are critical towards such an exchange, the fee increases in Britain does not hit engineering students only, but all students. The government must come up with a programme that covers fees for all Norwegian students in Britain, not only those in industry. Needs must be met."

## Colleges urged to produce more engineers

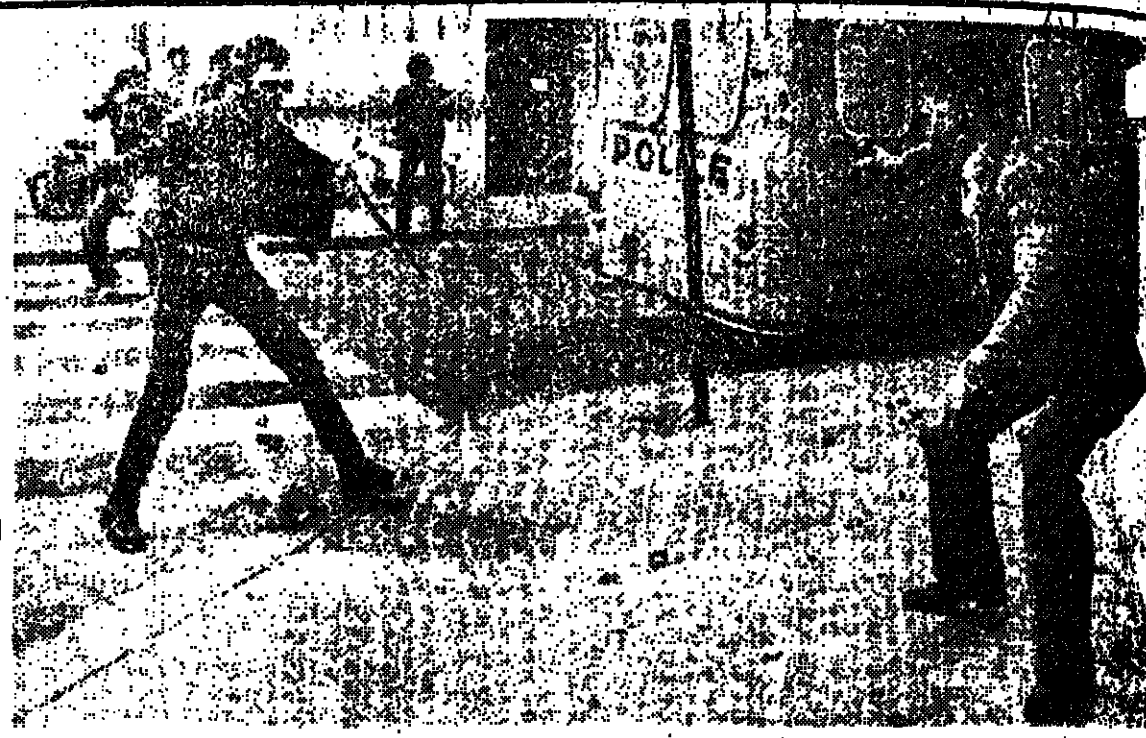
from John Walshe

DUBLIN The Republic is in a race against time to produce enough engineering graduates to meet its rapidly increasing requirements, and will only catch up by the end of the century, says a conclusion of a recent high-powered conference on engineering requirements, organised by the Royal Irish Academy, the Manpower Consultative Committee, the National Board for Science and Technology and the Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

The stock of Irish engineers compares unfavourably with other more developed countries. The 1977 UNESCO Statistical Year Book showed Ireland having between one third and one fifth of the level of engineering graduates as England. The Republic's demand for engineers is growing apace.

It is estimated that some 10,000 opportunities are expected to arise for engineers over the next decade, approximately 5,000 in civil engineering, 3,500 in production engineering, 500 in chemical engineering and a striking 4,500 in electronic engineering.

Colleges have indicated that if their present plans come to fruition they will be able to provide for further increases of engineers in the late 1980s. However, the expansion required to do so is very large (80 per cent to 100 per cent increase on 1979 output) and represents a major planning problem at national level as well as the level of individual colleges. An indication of the cost is that the Institution of Engineers has called for an expenditure of £100m over the next five to seven years for the building of new schools of the subject.



A plainclothes policeman (right) with gun tries to leave central police station as students hurl stones.

## Ultraleft group blamed for Paris riots

from Guy Neave

PARIS Last week Paris was the scene of the worst rioting since May 1968, following the death of an occupant at Jussieu University centre on the Left Bank.

The victim, Alain Bognard, was not a student but apparently fell to his death in the panic that resulted from police intervention. The police had been called in to the university after a group of young demonstrators, some of them school students, overturned and set fire to a passing bus and then took refuge in the university.

Protests against police brutality brought some 10,000 students out of the streets in the afternoon of May 14. Similar demonstrations took place in the provinces particularly at Lyons, Toulouse, Rouens and Caen where student unrest has been on the boil these past two months.

Particularly worrying to the authorities is the fact that an increasing number of participants in student demonstrations appear to have little to do with university life. There appears to be a considerable element drawing on the young unemployed which is joining in with the idea of having a stand up fight with the police.

The running battle that broke out

last Thursday was mainly the work of outsiders who, at the end of the demonstration, did not hesitate to use the university as a refuge having overturned cars and a passing Air Force tanker lorry.

But the nature of the protests appears to be changing. To be sure those areas where demonstrations were particularly well attended corresponded to those where student unrest centred on the issue of foreign students' entry conditions to French universities has been endemic for the past three months. At Grenoble, for instance, some 7,000 students turned out to protest against police action in Paris.

The government has stood by its intention to apply stricter conditions for foreign students. But it previously justified on educational grounds, namely, the need to test whether their knowledge of French is sufficient to take them through university study, the government is now taking a more security-conscious line. Speaking to the National Assembly, the Premier, Raymond Barre, announced that the government would be paying more attention to those foreigners using student status as a cover for political action who are not in fact students at all.

Before the death of Alain Bognard there were signs that the campaign of solidarity with foreign students

was waning. Initiative in student unrest appears to be shifting, increasingly the running is being made by the so-called autonomous groups of students.

This group—the Autonomes as they are known—is made up of one-time militants of small left wing groups who have since left organized politics, university drop-outs, youngsters living on the dole and frankly by bands of toughs.

Their meeting place has always been in the universities. The main centres of their activities appear to be the Left Bank universities of Jussieu, Conier and Tolbiac as well as the University of Nanterre in the distant suburbs to the west of the capital.

The Autonomes first emerged in Caen and then spread to Paris. From there they moved to the Ecole Normale Supérieure, the most liberal of France's grandes écoles which has produced so many of the famous men of the Third and Fourth Republics, like Bergson, Jaurès, Péguy and Blum.

The group's higher education was important. As an academic high-flier in the late 1940s, he attended the Ecole Normale Supérieure just as his half-century hegemony over French intellectual (and public) life was coming to an end. As a result he absorbed its humanist and republican spirit. Had he been a few years younger and with different professional ambitions he might have gone instead to the Ecole Polytechnique, the fierce holbe of the Fifth Republic's elite and been infected by its more technocratic and even Napoleonic values.

In 1949 he joined the Communist Party, also perhaps in sympathy with the spirit of post-war France. He remained a member until 1953 when he left the party to join the press of the Hungarian revolt in 1956. But he did not abandon his commitment to left-wing politics. In Montpelier, where he had gone as a lycée teacher in 1953 and then as a research fellow at the university in 1957 he stood as a candidate for a left apostle group, the PSU (Unified Socialist Party). He received only 2.5 per cent of the vote and that ended his active electoral career.

But he has remained firmly a man of the Left. He still admits a "strongly leftist" and describes himself as a "semi-Marxist". Any drift to the centre during the 1960s and 1970s (he puts his present political position half way between the two) is a result of his own political evolution.

Local education consultants have noted a sharp rise in the number of students applying to go to a United States and in the number corresponding drop in the number of inquiries about Britain. The government has decided to reduce the number of scholarships available for students to study in Britain and has sent exploratory missions to several other countries to recruit students. "We are seeking more places in overseas universities for our students. Countries like France, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia and many others have offered places in their universities for our students."

Programmes are now being developed at the Mars Institute of Technology to teach French, German and Japanese to prospective Malaysian overseas students. Calls for the setting up of a further university have been rejected as premature, but the existing development of a number of polytechnics will continue under the Fourth Malaysia Plan.

Many patients of the arrested "dentists" said in court: "He was the best dentist I've ever visited and I'll go back to him, any time, any day."

## Teething troubles strike Rome's latest school

from Uli Schmetzer

ROME The Italian tooth trade faces a brighter future after a quiet academic revolution to create the first odontology school since the unification of Italy last century.

But dentists have always existed but the task of extracting, filling and constructing teeth was simply left to medical practitioners who specialized in odontology after graduating from medical school.

After a six-year course few medical graduates had the stamina to study an "additional three years for the diploma of odontology before being allowed to practise dentistry. The result is no surprise: according to the latest statistics one dentist serves every 900 inhabitants in Rome. Outside the capital one dentist serves over 6,000 Italians.

In contrast Italy has more physicians per capita than any other country in the world.

There is a great shortage of dentists and the new graduates will fill this vacuum, says Professor Luigi Capozzi, dean of the newly created odontology school at Rome University.

In fact, the odontology degree "smuggled" into the Italian campus "numerus clausus" for the first time since faculty quota systems were abolished in the late 1960s when Italian universities were thrown open to anyone with a secondary "scientific" education.

When the new school will have an initial quota of only 120 students and applicants are required to sit for an entry examination.

The small number of students to be admitted is merely a protection for the existing professional structure and does not meet the needs of the Rome region, student representative Paolo Occhialini complains. The presidential decree establishing the school was probably prompted more by a survey than the desire to improve the standards of dental practices. The survey showed that more than 50 per cent of school children suffered from cavities. The number of existing dentists could not cope with school-age dental problems. Finally, dental fees, buoyant on excess demand, were exorbitant.

Still, the shortage and qualifications of dentists is an issue that had dogged Italy for decades. At times the shortage has been alleviated by "bogus dentists" or scores of bogus dentists in Northern Italy. The latest of a former, a specialist in the falsifying of odontology diplomas.

## Malays look towards US for tuition

from Brian Bridges

KUALA LUMPUR Malaysian educationalists are concerned about how to adapt to the reduction in the number of government and private students going to Britain, which traditionally has had by far the largest intake of Malaysian students abroad. In the aftermath of the fees increases.

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## How a historian's whimsy cornered the mass market

Professor Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie is a historian of the almost whimsical idiosyncrasy and of the strictest method. These competing qualities are wrapped up in a Puckish personality in which the austerity of his Norman background and his enthusiasm for the baroque culture of Occitanian France jostle for predominance.

## PROFILE

Peter Scott interviews

Professor Emmanuel

Le Roy Ladurie in the

first of a series on four

prominent historians

He went down with anthropological and sociological speculations like Montaigne—and then proceeds to tell us many copies as the most enterprising author of pulp paperbacks. He is attracted to colour and even exotic episodes in French history like the social unrest surrounding the *mardi gras* carnival in Romans in 1580, but then uses them to dissect the mentality of an age and the culture of its people with all the austere rigour of an editor of *Annales*.

Even his writing style lurches from the anecdotal and even chatty, to dry lists of taxes, population, social structure, and family size which can be too quantitative for even the most advanced British tastes. In short, Ladurie's work combines very fully the different strands of tension in French historiography, and illuminates that delicate balance between qualitative judgment and quantitative analysis which makes the modern study of history a central discipline to intellectual life.

He was born in 1929 in the Calvados district of Normandy. His father was a prosperous farmer of right-wing Catholic views who went on to be a minister under Vichy and then to turn against that regime to join the resistance. His family assumed that the young Ladurie would become a priest, an ambition which he gave up at the age of 16—although I still really consider myself a clerk.

Ladurie was educated at a lycée in Caen and then attended the famous Lycée Henri IV in Paris. From there he moved to the Ecole Normale Supérieure, the most liberal of France's grandes écoles which has produced so many of the famous men of the Third and Fourth Republics, like Bergson, Jaurès, Péguy and Blum.

The group's higher education was important. As an academic high-flier in the late 1940s, he attended the Ecole Normale Supérieure just as his half-century hegemony over French intellectual (and public) life was coming to an end. As a result he absorbed its humanist and republican spirit. Had he been a few years younger and with different professional ambitions he might have gone instead to the Ecole Polytechnique, the fierce holbe of the Fifth Republic's elite and been infected by its more technocratic and even Napoleonic values.

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Communism a third important influence on Ladurie's intellectual formation was the enthusiasm for Occitanian or southern French culture which he discovered when he moved to Montpellier (and married there). Perhaps because I am a historian, a northern provincial, I am strongly attracted to the baroque personality and civilization of the south," he said.

These three rather personal ingredients can be found in nearly all his historical work—humanism, which it is not too fanciful to suggest was derived ultimately from the intellectual climate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure; sympathy for the underdog which grew perhaps instinctively out of his left-wing commitment; and enthusiasm for the democratic and exuberant culture of Occitanian.

All three are apparent in *Montaigne*, in which little doubt is left that the Cathar (Albigensian) heretics deserve more sympathy than their persecutor, Jacques Fournier, Bishop of Pamiers and later Pope Benedict XII, and in *Carnival* in which the populist leader, Jean Pannier, is the hero and Judge Antoine Godein, the defender of the established order, is the villain.

Ladurie's personal affiliations, however, are in close harmony with the wider consensus of modern French historiography. He has been an editor of *Annales* since 1967 and is a leading figure in that intellectual tradition established by Bloch and Febvre with its emphasis on the social and economic history and on the methodologies of the social sciences.

But the *Annales* tradition today is a broad, and almost universal, church among French historians. It has always had two broad tendencies. The first, and probably original one, is the history of mentality, that is the attempt to penetrate into the consciousness of men and women living in the past. This tendency is most closely associated with the work of Febvre himself.

The second, which was in the ascendancy from 1945 to 1965, is the attempt to apply to historical study the techniques and even the styles of the quantitative social sciences, in particular economics and demography. Until the mid-1960s prices and population were central concepts of French historiography. A few individuals have managed to straddle both tendencies like Fernand Braudel, without much doubt France's greatest living historian, but even he was probably happier with the quantitative than the metaphysical tendency.

Ladurie's work, however, is perhaps more in the original tradition of *Annales*. His most significant contributions to the development of historical studies in France has been in two areas, the application of the newer and more qualitative social sciences to history, and the reassertion of more humane concerns to counter-balance the perhaps excessive concentration on mechanistic styles of history that grew up in the 1950s and 1960s.

In this first area he has been probably most influential in introducing the insights of sociology, anthropology and even psychology into French historiography. He has been deeply influenced by intellectual contact with social scientists in Britain and the United States and believes that French historiography is indeed, at this time, continuing to be influenced by the social sciences in Germany. By French standards Ladurie is especially open to foreign influences.

studies of totemism, all go into the intellectual study that produces works like *Montaigne* and *Carnival*.

At the start of his academic career Ladurie was a more traditional *annaliste*. He left Montpellier in 1963 although the book that is the product of his Montpellier period, *The Peasants of Languedoc*, was not published until three years later. He moved to Paris, first to the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, and then in 1969 to the newly created University of Paris VII. Two years before he had published a second book, *History of Climate since 1000*, a quintessential *annaliste* work.

But he has always been a rather quirky historian difficult to classify. Asked what period he regarded as his speciality, he replied: "I am perhaps a specialist of even centuries, having written about the fourteenth century in *Montaigne*, about the sixteenth century in *Carnival*, and I am writing about eighteenth century Languedoc."

He also offered three more descriptions of his classification: "a specialist in the years 1000 to 2000", "a historian of the south", and an "early modern historian." The last is perhaps the most accurate: reviewers of *Montaigne* in French academic journals were clearly worried that a sixteenth century historian should plunge headlong into the medieval period—but all omitted the important elements of truth. Ladurie is as catholic in the periods he tackles as the intellectual influences he absorbs.

The second way in which he has helped to develop the *Annales* tradition is to make it more human. He has done so at many levels. First and most important he has aided and abetted the retreat from high-technology history in France. "Up to 1968 we were obsessed with technology with computers," he explained. "Since then we have passed the end of the technocratic illusion. We have come back to life—to Montaigne."

Ladurie was quick to add that he did not object to the use of computers in historical study. But he could blind the historian to the quality or the evidence. He himself is a low-technology historian relying more upon the Xerox machine and the tape recorder.

Secondly, for an academic historian he is tolerant towards popularization. This tolerance is perhaps a reflection of his desire to see history on a human rather than an epochal scale. He believes that the highest form of history may be broad sweeping works like Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* which shows a heretical enthusiasm for *histoire événementielle* against which the original *annalistes* rebelled. He is tempted to write biography again, possibly a vulgar work like *Gibbon's Decline and Fall* which shows a heretical enthusiasm for *histoire événementielle* against which the original *annalistes* rebelled. He is tempted to write biography again, possibly a vulgar work like *Gibbon's Decline and Fall* which shows a heretical enthusiasm for *histoire événementielle* against which the original *annalistes* rebelled.

So the spectacular success of *Montaigne* published in 1975 was perhaps because it exposed these dominant, more egotistical and more community-based values. *Montaigne* evoked such a powerful response in modern France.

*Carnival*, Ladurie's next book (which was published in Britain last week), was less popular in France. It only sold 35,000 copies! But in at least two senses it is a more complete historical work. It is an account of the social unrest surrounding the *mardi gras* carnival in Romans in Dauphiné in 1580, unrest which culminated in a bloody counter-revolution by the rich bourgeoisie of the city.

The quality of the archives on which it is based is inferior to that of *Montaigne*. For instance next to nothing has survived of the views and attitudes of Pannier, the leader of the revolt, except in the descriptions of his opponents. But the very fact that *Carnival* lacks the popular appeal of *Montaigne* means that Ladurie's skill as an historian is more evident. The way in which he uses insights from anthropology to illuminate the symbolism of the carnival is particularly remarkable.

*Carnival* is also a more interesting work because the ideas and mentalities it uncovers are not dead beyond recall like the heresy of the Cathars, but the first representations of some modern ideas about taxation, representation, and unemployment. It is still, dominate in French history.



translation (some of Ladurie's more anthropological rumblings) the quality of a novel—the furtive wanderings of the Authie brothers, Cathar perfect, the almost nomadic wandering of the shepherd Maury. In the twilight of the Renaissance it articulates a complete geology, with all its colours and contours.

In spite of its comparative lack of popular success, Ladurie is pleased with *Carnival*. "It is a scholarly book. After all, I am just a medievalist. I can write boring things too," he explained. In fact *Montaigne* is an aberration, although a very revealing one, in an otherwise fairly conventional academic career.

In 1973, Ladurie left Paris VII, although delighted by his experience of Pauré-style higher education (on his last day a leftist student grabbed him by his collar, kicked him, and accused him of being a fascist). To vent to the calmness of the atmosphere of the chair of the history of modern civilization at the Collège de France. Here he has written *The Territory of the Historian*, a collection of essays, and contributed to Braudel's and Le Goff's *Economic and Social History of France*, of which two volumes have so far appeared.

There is perhaps a temptation to see Ladurie as a one-book historian—although if the book were *Montaigne* many historians would regard it as a masterpiece. Ladurie's French historians he has perhaps been most creative in the application of anthropology, sociology, and psychology to the study of history, so bringing some warmth and life to a brilliant but cold historiography.

But the most powerful impression he leaves is one of whimsy. He admits to fantasies of bullets or operas based on *Montaigne*. He teases himself with ideas of writing a book about the history of utopian thought, or a book to feel the pulse of popular imagination with a clarity that few academic historians either aspire to or achieve. This, combined with an intellectual exuberance and a creative individuality, is the hallmark of his style and achievement as a historian. Professor Le Roy Ladurie is a Flaubert, not a Gibbon.



# Shedding northern light on adult study



Students learn from local industry (left) and from living in a stately home.

Wentworth Castle is a rather fine stately home standing on a hill about three miles south of Barnsley. It was originally known as Stainborough Hall, but the name was changed after it was bought by the Wentworth family in 1708. The gardens were laid out, new and magnificent wings were added by the Earls of Strafford, and for more than 200 years the castle was the country seat of the Wentworths.

After army occupation during the war the site was sold in 1948 for £26,000 and converted into a teacher training college. Thirty years later it became the first teacher training college to fall under the Government's axe. But the building did not remain out of use for long—in October it reopened its doors as the Northern College, a residential adult education college.

In June the first group of students to complete a two-year diploma course will leave the college; many will return to their homes or jobs, including community work or trades union work; others will be going on to further study at universities or polytechnics.

Robbie Roberts, who is aged 33 and comes from a mining background, has been offered an unconditional place at Sheffield Polytechnic to study history. His grandfather was a miner, his father was a miner, and his mother (who urged him to choose a different job) was a miner's daughter. Robbie left school at 15 and although he was offered jobs by the British Steel Corporation and the Yorkshire Electricity Board, he went down the pit.

He spent 18 years working on the colliery before choosing to join the Northern College. He was prompted by his work on a series of day-release courses sponsored by the Northern Union of Mineworkers and run by the extramural department at Sheffield University. It was the opportunity he had been waiting for, he says.

"The ordinary working man is biased against education. Before I came here my horizons were very limited. I have found out how little I know. I have also found out how to ask questions and find answers. The more you know, the more you realize how much has been hidden from you," he said.

The dining hall is the focal point during the mid-morning break for coffee. It has a splendid high ceiling covered with panels of Baroque

paintings. Here Robbie explained how much the last 18 months had affected him. He now spends most of his free time reading; 10 years ago that would have been time wasted. (Hardy, D. H. Lawrence, and the historian E. P. Thompson feature highly on his current booklist).

Some tutorials in his trade union and industrial studies course are like real battlefields, he said. "Everyone has their own opinions. But everyone also has the right to disagree. The atmosphere really forces you to think. No one orders you about. You learn to build up your self-discipline and motivation. As long as you've done your best everyone is happy."

One problem is keeping up with his past life and friends. "There is no doubt you can become isolated from the outside world, sitting here studying every night. You have to choose just how much you want out of education," he said.

Marion Carlton, who is 52 and just completing the first year of the social and community work course, confirms the problem. "I feel sometimes that I have jumped off a 10-foot wall coming here and I am still trying to pick myself up. But it's the best decision I have ever made."

Marion left school at 14, married an engine driver, and has three children all still at home. She spends weekends at home but she is worried about whether she will be left in a bigger world at the end of two years than when she first started.

Age is certainly no limit on learning. She described a discussion with one of her tutors on the rules adopted between parents and children by different societies. "Eventually I turned to the tutor, who was about half my age, and said the proof of the pudding is in the eating and I have eaten a lot more pudding than you have. That settled the discussion, however many books he had read."

She plans to return to her home in Doncaster to play a more significant role in the community. "She says she has become a far more confident speaker. She has been working on a study of the Montagu Cottage Hospital 1890-1980, a local hospital at present fighting a rearguard battle to prevent its casualty unit being closed down."

There were great difficulties in setting up the college. Students and

staff share a pioneering spirit. Northern College has been nicknamed the Ruskin of the north, no doubt a compliment; but the principal, Mr Michael Barratt Brown, whose father was principal of the Oxford adult education college of that name for 20 years, is not so keen on the name. He prefers the college to develop its own identity as the first regional-oriented residential adult college in Britain.

The idea of the college was conceived in the 1960s when students on the extra-mural courses at Sheffield University began to look around for a home for more concentrated full-time study. Councils, education officials, and academics (including Mr Barratt Brown, one of the tutors on the university courses) supported the idea and made the point forcefully to Lord Russell when he visited Sheffield during his inquiry into adult education.

The 1973 Russell Report supported the idea of setting up a new college, recommending that it run both short courses of up to five weeks for equipping working people with new skills and ideas, and longer diploma courses for those aiming at university. Funds were still needed and for a long time the Department of Education and Science argued that it would cost too much. The four South Yorkshire education authorities stepped into the breach and now guarantee the £400,000 annual budget, with help from DSS grants, from neighbouring authorities and some independent bodies.

The funding arrangements have greatly strengthened the regional ties of the college. Half the 30 students on the longer courses come from within the county and the short courses are attended mainly by local groups. Mr Barratt Brown said he hoped South Yorkshire would make much of the credit for the development of the college.

They have shown tremendous loyalty to the college despite having to cut back in so many areas. "There are three main courses of study: trade union and industrial studies, social and community studies, and liberal and gateway studies; the latter an introduction to the disciplines through literature, history and sociology."

In the first term all students do a common course, "Looking at Life", under the themes of education, race, education, the sexes, work, and art, and a second section, "Roots in the Past", which looks at how the north of England developed, with visits to museums, steelworks, and pits, and discussions of transport, technology, and urbanisation.

Students receive a certificate for completing one year of study. A panel of four outstanding external academic assessors, consisting of Lord Briggs, Professor David Donlon, Professor Rhoydd Harrison, and Professor Raymond Williams, has given the college an impressive standing. Mr Barratt Brown is pleased with the way the courses have been integrated across disciplines. "The courses are problem-oriented and not discipline run. It has meant a great deal of work and collaboration between staff. The regional inspectorate, the RMI, were most enthusiastic about the courses when they reported on the college earlier this year."

Perhaps the most exciting feature of the college is the series of short courses run either for the union groups, sponsored for example by the NUM or NUPE, the public employees union, or for community groups. These include a course on "The HMI report" and the Law

Centres Federation for those wanting to set up a community law centre.

Most of those attending short courses are women, which according to Mr Barratt Brown, the tutor-organizer for short courses and a former training adviser with the Manpower Services Commission, reflects the few study opportunities open to most women.

"The real point of these courses is that no one has to abandon a job or a family responsibility to pick up a new skill," Mr Barratt Brown said. The groups come for "short stabs of learning", build on their own experiences, learn a bit more about how British society works, and then return to their group or institutions able to work that much better.

The college runs a crèche and a nursery for children aged two and a half to five years, funded until the end of the next year by the Rowntree Trust. "The nursery is vital for these courses. Women with children can come, and for once sit up and take part, if you like become more active. This fits in very much with the aims of the college," said Mr Barratt Brown.

Some of the students on the longer courses also have their children staying at the college. Sheela Bradley, currently the student union president, has two children, Adam, aged seven, and Nina, aged six, living with her. As Mr Barratt Brown said: "This last thing we want to become is a menagerie."

Sheela, whose parents emigrated from Pakistan, left home at 18 in part to escape an arranged marriage. She worked in an unemployment benefits office and as a saleswoman in a department store before joining the college on the liberal and gateway studies course.

She said the college really had given her a second chance to study after she had missed out on higher education at 18. She was fascinated by the college's approach to study, particularly its emphasis on philosophy. She said her children, who go to a local school by bus, had benefited enormously from being at the college though they were a little isolated from other children.

Fond, she said, was the main bone of contention between students and college staff: the student union had gone through four presidents in the first year, but relations—and the food—had improved significantly since. The students now elect their own representatives to sit on the internal governing body for prospective students, and took part in all major college decisions.

Mr Barratt Brown is still keen to extend the residential space: at present there is room for 90 students, staying in 41 single and 30 double study bedrooms, half in an annex built for the old teacher training college. But he knows he cannot reasonably ask for more money from the local councils so plans to convert the old student into study-bedrooms have been deferred. But this week the new John Manderson Library building, a 1,000 English literature books, was officially opened. It is the library of the late MP for Penistone, the constituency in which the college stands. He was a great supporter of the college but sadly died before it was opened. The new building is a fully equipped dark room, a weight-lifting room, an enlarged bar and theatre space in the cellar.

The HMI report made three specific criticisms of the college: the standards and six of the study-bedrooms, particularly those that were being shared; the overloading of work on staff who were having to teach as well as develop the college; and the relative lack of recreational facilities.

Mr Barratt Brown is keenly aware of all three problems. But for recreation few institutions could match the gardens at the college, or the surrounding Peak District moors. The gardens have been improved and renovated with help from MSC's temporary employment programme; the rhododendrons at Wentworth are still regarded among the finest in northern Europe.

The main recreation room is the Long Gallery, said to be the longest room in England, 180 feet long and 20 feet wide. The room is split into a lounge area, table tennis area, and at one end a stage. Exhibitions are shown in the gallery, and at weekends it doubles as a family meeting room. On the walls are a series of paintings by one of the students, Patrick O'Neill, that illustrate the college's political commitment.

They contain allegorical messages against, for example, the Common Market and racism.

Local industrialists remain opposed to the college, which they say is too expensive, should be encouraged to train a military, and a result, traditional planning inquiries into a range of projects and enterprises, from motorways to nuclear power plants have been transformed into major confrontations between technical "experts" and a wide variety of "lay" objections.

In spite of this growing interest, a recent survey by Dr Bill Hampton for the working party on public participation set up by the Society for Adult Education shows that few adult education agencies devote much of their resources to work of this kind.

Often the initiatives depend upon the enthusiasm of individual members of staff and there is no evidence of agencies having formulated policies concerning this aspect of their work.

Dr Hampton, who is a reader in Sheffield University's continuing

education division, sent out a postal questionnaire to a total of 228 adult education agencies including local education authorities, polytechnics, universities, the Workers' Educational Association districts and Scottish colleges of further education.

Of the 191 (84 per cent) who responded, 131 (69 per cent) said they provided educational activities to assist people to participate in public affairs or to understand and discuss public issues. Of those 131 agencies, 104 (79 per cent) provided general education on participation or citizenship; 117 (89 per cent) provided rule education; and 93 (71 per cent) provided education relevant to current public issues.

As expected, the universities and the WEA were particularly concerned with all aspects of this work. The L.E.A.s gave more emphasis to general education, while the polytechnics were strong on issue education.

Dr Hampton found that although a sizeable proportion of agencies said they made some sort of provision, it formed only a tiny proportion of their total programme. The way in which university adult education departments can respond to this lack of provision and the new challenges in the field of public participation has been the concern of the working party of the Universities Council for Adult Education for the past three years.

Under the chairmanship of Professor Brian Groombridge, director of extramural studies at London University, it is attempting to re-assess the general tradition of associating adult education with democratic adult understanding. "It is not enough to think that if you had a course to which you recruited people who had leading positions on town councils that was a significant contribution to the political process," said Professor Groombridge. "But anybody can see that it is totally inadequate in contemporary terms."

The working party shares the belief that in practice the old idea of an education in citizenship has been abused through claiming at a distance and passive performance of duties which frequently became mere indoctrination.

"There have been attempts to use 'education' to exclude classes of people from citizenship," the group says in its final report to the UCAE. "And when citizenship acquired a more active and participatory connotation, there were those who sought to 'educate' people into non-participation by defining civic affairs as an arena of professional expertise."

In seeking to harness education to the concept of active citizenship we should remember that participation

# People's power in the wake of Bullock

During the past eight years more than 1,000 school governors and managers in the Sheffield area have flooded into courses aimed at helping them to make more effective use of their role. They have been so popular that Sheffield University's continuing education division has had difficulty keeping up with demand.

On Merseyside, Liverpool University's Institute of extension studies has recently run a series of courses which looked at local social issues. Council's structure plan and encouraged members of the public to submit their own, informed response to the council's planning department.

In the run up to the Common Market referendum, lectures at Market Hall College in Lancashire took video equipment into local pubs and bars to stimulate informal debate on whether or not to join the European Economic Community.

These examples reflect a growing and widespread concern with the social rights and responsibilities of ordinary citizens and with the question of how they may be exercised most effectively.

Over the past decade successive Government reports including the Bullock report on worker participation in industry, the Seabrook report on personal social services, the Skellington report on planning and the Taylor report on school management, all have urged school managers, up to governors, to have a greater degree of public involvement in matters which affect people's daily lives.

Legislation like the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act has placed new responsibilities on managers, employers and trade unionists, while specific interest groups have demanded more consultation. As a result, traditional planning inquiries into a range of projects and enterprises, from motorways to nuclear power plants have been transformed into major confrontations between technical "experts" and a wide variety of "lay" objections.

The trade unions could not put the college many times over but they have their own special colleges; and the courses are more generally concerned with social and political questions; many public bodies like the National Coal Board and the NUM both provide speakers and information for the miners' short courses.

It is certainly not a managerial training centre if that is what industrialists are after, said Mr Barratt Brown. "There are plenty of them. What people do realize is that this is a regional college, and the area is very much a Labour Party dominated area."

Trade union activists do attend the courses and play a very important role, according to Mr Barratt Brown, a recent visit from the Doncaster Chamber of Commerce suggested that private firms were coming to accept the role the college could play, and not see it as some sort of "enemy bastion". This is particularly important as some private firms have made it difficult in the past for their employees to take paid leave to attend the short courses.

Students at the college will be joining a number of universities, including Hull, York, Bradford, Keele, Manchester and Sheffield, as well as numerous polytechnics. Some are even being offered places without the condition of first obtaining a diploma or certificate.

Mr Barratt Brown describes his job as principal a privilege; though he wonders why he puts himself in the firing line. "Watching the students come and go, the paintings, listening to the birds, as they wander around the gardens, unable at first to accept that this is their home. Gradually they start opening up to appreciate all the college offers. It is a marvellous moment for me."

He will be and when he is trying to develop a new research project in some of the industry completed by students at the college. As Stuart Watson, who is doing a thesis on local government in his home town of Sutton-in-Ashfield, said: "You come here and really learn all about yourself in a way."

In particular, academics will be forced to look outside their own limited approach to chemistry. In the past they have tended to concentrate on Chemical Society members with its orientation towards publishing, arranging meetings and other functions as compared to the Royal Institute of Chemistry which tended to have more people employed in industry and Government laboratories and more concerned with education activities and professional qualifications, Sir Ewart added.

"Of course, some academics have taken up membership of both bodies. But in general most have tended to be far too insular in their activities. Now some are going to be exposed to a whole range of responsibilities and activities in the new society," he said.

"Academics have got to look outside their own little field where they only do things they want to do. They have got to do work that someone wants to do. Work that is not just for their own benefit. Now some are going to be exposed to a whole range of responsibilities and activities in the new society," he said.

Professor Sir Ewart Jones, a long, patient slog.

Charlotte Barry looks at a recent survey of projects to aid public debate and increase citizens' rights



The Common Market referendum saw local groups, like Cambridge Students for Europe (above) on the streets trying to win No votes.

It is about values and interests and not just about knowledge. Our commitment is to an informed and critical participation, not to the values, interests and actions of particular participants.

The working party has considered a number of specific areas in which adult education can be involved, from the urban programme and the whole field of town planning to nuclear power and other controversial aspects of science and technology policy.

Dr Hampton's survey shows that the only existing widespread form of role education is for shop stewards and health and safety representatives. In the few areas where other kinds have been provided, it has often been spectacularly successful. Some agencies attract hundreds of people to regular programmes of activities for parish and community councillors, school managers and governors, magistrates, in Scotland whereas other groups, like members of tenants' associations, are neglected.

On the whole general courses are not common or well supported. Those that do exist cover a wide spectrum from introductory courses in politics to legal or welfare rights. Rejecting this rather traditional institutional treatment, the working party suggests using legislation as a starting point.

Although the role of local radio in public participation has been seriously underplayed, the group feels new initiatives could follow the example set by the Open University. Like the OU, university adult education departments could collaborate with local radio in providing both programme material and supporting literature.

At the same time, a unification committee was established under the chairmanship of Sir Ewart who is only the third man in the history of both the Institute and the Chemical Society to have been president of both bodies.

After "an uphill, but not particularly dramatic, struggle" the structure of the new body was agreed through a great deal of joint consultation.

A key feature of the 40,000-member body will be the setting up of its six major divisions—analytical, inorganic, education, industrial, physical and organic, which will have their own membership, presidents and councils. In this way, the Royal Society of Chemistry hopes to ensure against future fragmentation of the organization.

Through this structure the RSC hopes to achieve two major goals—greater external influence and greater internal efficiency. The latter aim will take up much of the work of the new society at first, only in later years will it then take on the vital task of representing chemistry strongly throughout British society, for instance, through influencing health and safety and industrial bills as they go through Parliament and protecting the professional interests of chemists.

Other advantages would include allowing greater and easier comparison of salaries between academics and those in the public sector with those chemists employed in industry.

"Chemists are going to be much better informed if they wish to be involved in a particular area of the various groups... The RSC today

For instance, the 1974 Control of Pollution Act could give great scope to an imaginative tutor who is willing to help local groups become involved in many aspects of environmental protection and the collecting and interpreting of data.

The range of activities organized round issues could be very wide involving a short burst of labour-intensive activity, these issues come and go as events and new policies stimulate interest through the media. They can concern labour legislation, the abortion debate, nuclear power, the use of certain drugs in medicine, fluoridation, condensation, planning inquiries and many more.

The working party feels that conferences can be a very successful method of raising issues and can lead on to wider public involvement and debate. Also useful in this context are the basic skills of organization including book-keeping, committee procedure, public speaking, form filling, document deciphering and so on.

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# Chemical formula comes up with just the right mix



Professor Sir Ewart Jones: "a long, patient slog"

He maintained that in recent years there had been too much emphasis on theoretical aspects of chemistry which, although interesting, tended to be too elitist. Work should be more practically oriented in future.

This would be far more likely to occur when university and polytechnic chemistry staff were operating in closer collaboration with professional and industrial chemists within the Royal Society of Chemistry.

A closer unity among chemists was particularly important, as increasingly chemistry was impinging itself on everyday life with more use of fertilisers, medicines, improved fuels and many other new products, said Sir Ewart.

Our world is becoming more and more chemical and increasingly we can expect people to ask more questions about just how those chemicals are affecting our society," he added.

The new Royal Society could be expected to take a vital role in this field and direct and inform the public on the effect of chemicals and chemistry on their lives.

Other advantages would include allowing greater and easier comparison of salaries between academics and those in the public sector with those chemists employed in industry.

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Society and the Society for Analytical Chemistry were incorporated as special divisions within the Chemical Society which was also given some of the responsibilities for RIC activities although the Institute nevertheless retained control over professional and quality matters.

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Robin McKie



# A pair of loud reports in the Commons

MPs of both major parties demonstrated rare agreement last week in the findings of the two Select Committees on the question of overseas students. The reports, while unlikely to spark a revision of Government policy, were notable for scathing two wider Parliamentary debates.

One, on the "powers of Select Committees to elicit information from Government departments," has all the signs of a long-running battle between ministers and backbenchers. The second, on the fees question itself, may be less polarized but could prove embarrassing to the Government none the less. Without the two reports, it is doubtful that the issue would have reached the floor of the House, but now that a debate has been scheduled, the prospect of wide-spread Conservative abstentions is a real one.

Although two of the less regular attenders at the Foreign Affairs subcommittee, Mr Peter Mills and Mr Anthony Grant, held out for a second report when the "final draft" was approved, other normally reliable supporters of the Government line were prepared to put their names to strongly worded criticism of the fees policy and the way in which it was created.

Tories on the Education Committee saw that their report was phrased in more moderate terms but still made clear their disquiet for some aspects of the policy, the way it was formulated and the treatment they received from civil servants and ministers. Mr Christopher Price, the chairman, said: "Our report is little bit more measured and slightly less florid in its language. I think the reason for this is that the Conservatives genuinely wanted to criticize the Government but did not want to be accused of exaggerating the issue."

As a result, despite the presence of a Conservative chairman, Mr Anthony Kershaw, on the main committee, the Foreign Affairs report, certainly carries the greater impact. It throws doubt on the efficacy of Government departments and even on the good faith of those presenting the cases.

On the question of the amount by which Britain was said to be subsidizing overseas students, the



Christopher Price, Kevin McNamara, Anthony Kershaw, Mark Carlisle.

## John O'Leary on the implications for the Government of two committees' findings on the overseas students question

report is "uncompromising. It is likely that the £106m frequently quoted by the Government is an overstatement of the economic cost, the committee says."

"We thus find ourselves asking why these figures were given to the House of Commons and to the general public," the report says. "Does this arise from bad advice? Or does it arise from a deliberate attempt to present the issue in a manner calculated to win political support for an ill-considered and hastily judgment?"

Mr Kevin McNamara, the Labour chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee, underlined this final point at the press conference to launch the two reports. A qualitative analysis of the decision-making process had been impossible, he said, since the process in its accepted sense did not seem to have existed.

In a judgment supported by Mr Price, he said: "Reading between the lines, what happened was that the Treasury reached a decision, the Department of Education and Science implemented it and the Overseas Development Administration took the thick end of the stick. That is, in fact, what happened—there was no decision-making."

The lack of consultation noted

critically by both committees is one of the features likely to attract disapproval when the reports are presented to the House. The Education Committee attaches particular significance to the claim that the fees decision was the only one of any importance on which the University Grants Committee was not consulted. And the DES view that consultation was unnecessary since the change was only one of degree is firmly rejected.

The charge is the more serious since each committee contends that its area of interest was ignored in the Cabinet debate on the introduction of full-cost fees. The Foreign Affairs report says there is no evidence that the overseas implications were given even cursory examination, while Mr Price's committee finds it difficult to believe from the evidence of Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education, that educational considerations played a major part in the decision.

Not surprisingly, both committees find that the new fee levels have far-reaching implications. Difficult though it is to quantify the effects at this stage, neither is in any doubt that the proportion of students from the poorest countries will continue to decline unless corrective action is taken and there is considerable apprehension about the likely impact on overall numbers.

Mr Price's committee refrains from rash predictions on course closures but insists that the transition to full-cost fees in a matter of months is too rapid for the institutions. It also attaches great importance to the previous alteration in residence regulations.

Despite Mr Carlisle's contention that the detailed application of the regulations, defining ordinary residence, the committee recommends that further clarification and guidance should be given to institutions and that particular attention should be paid to the problems of refugee students. The position of refugees is still under consideration by the Government and neither group makes any positive recommendations for their treatment.

In the case of foreign affairs, there is a more definite assessment of the impact of full-cost fees. The subcommittee fears that it is likely to be a net loss for the country. The idea of an advisory committee of the subject is another which has been in circulation for some time and which could be implemented now.

Relations with other governments, particularly of Commonwealth countries, are also said to be in danger. The decision to exempt EEC students is cited as

one aspect of the Government's policy causing particular harm in the context of the North-South dialogue.

However, it is on the inadequacy of official information and the unwillingness of government departments to co-operate in Select Committee inquiries that the two committees are most in agreement. Several barbed comments on the high quality of administration in the World University Service in comparison with those from the DES and the ODA are likely to raise eyebrows among those MPs diligent enough to examine the reports in detail.

The preparation of a separate report by the Education Committee on the provision of information to Select Committees will ensure that this issue also receives a full airing. Mr McNamara has already accused Dr Rhodes Boyson, under-secretary for higher education, of hiding behind the convention of collective responsibility and the Government has made its position clear in issuing new advice precluding comment by civil servants on questions of inter-departmental consultation, advice to ministers or issues of political sensitivity.

Since the recommendations in both reports would be relatively costly—particularly in the case of the Foreign Affairs Committee, both chairmen accept that their chances of implementation are slim to say the least. Neither committee has costed the schemes advocated and Mr Price has admitted that the cost of the proposals is vague so as not to be ruled out immediately by cost-conscious ministers.

Some suggestions, such as the designation of a minister with responsibility for overseas students could conceivably be taken up, particularly since Mr Kershaw held such a position in the last Conservative administration. The idea of an advisory committee of the subject is another which has been in circulation for some time and which could be implemented now.

Even if the binary schemes advocated by the two committees are forthcoming, the sight of Government supporters openly criticizing the policy may have a moderate future action in this area.

## Ngao Crequer describes the effect already being felt at a university faced with the loss of departments

Staff at Lancaster University have been given 34 working days to think about an internal proposal to close down five academic centres.

Most staff got their first sight of the proposals to phase out four departments and a regional study centre on May 21. A special senate meeting has been called for June 11 to make the final decision.

If the University Grants Committee had proposed the cuts there would have been universal horror. As it is, there has been astonishment at Lancaster at the breadth of the proposals, genuine surprise expressed privately by other vice-chancellors and a flexing of muscles by the Association of University Teachers.

Lancaster was expecting something but not quite this. One of the first acts of the new vice-chancellor, Professor Philip Reynolds, was to set up a small committee of his senior colleagues to carry out a review of all departments.

The committee was known among staff as "the gang of four". It interviewed staff and scrutinized every aspect of departmental activity in a search for the most efficient economy.

The document that eventually emerged, "A Strategy for the 1990s", makes it clear that any programme must relate to the long term. In the short term, the university must make economies to cover deficiencies expected as a result of a cut back in funding and the overseas student full cost fee policy.

But beyond that there lies a continuing and progressive reduction in funding, and according to the document, a fall in the size of the student age group.

The departments proposed for closure are Arabic and Islamic studies; Russian, Central and South Eastern European studies; and European studies. The work of the centre for north-west regional studies should be absorbed by other departments.

What the document studiously avoids mentioning is the

## The beginning of the fall of the house of Lancaster

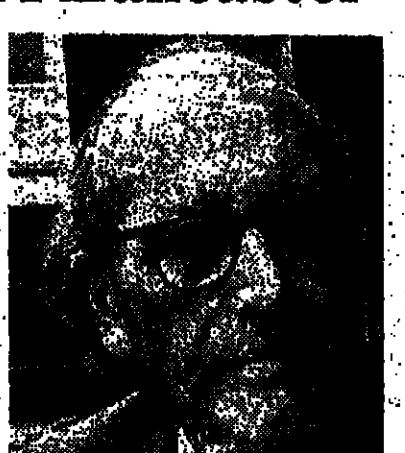
measures. If no staff are to be made redundant then can presumably be no major savings unless the assumption is that staff will do more for less. Reynolds does not see the need to be replaced. The document states that the university will need to lose more staff than are expected to be lost through retirement and resignation which would mean no new appointments before 1984.

Those behind the document see the need for a rethink about what Lancaster University should be, arguing that it can only promote its strengths by shedding its weaknesses, that is, those which foreseeably have no prospect of future strength or viability.

It lays out the criteria needed to be outstanding: the numbers of undergraduate applications; taking account of competition; postgraduate studentships; percentage of completions; number of staff-student ratio; research grants; publications; general contributions to the higher education system within the university or externally.

Such subjective criteria gives considerable scope to anyone devising closure of a department. All of the departments selected have small staffs though, reasons are found to justify maintenance of other small departments, such as music, art and theatre studies. On the whole, languages come out rather badly in the comparison. Operations at Lancaster because of size, which will do much for future morale.

Staff at the department of European studies were thunderstruck when they learned about the proposals. A senior member of staff is



Professor Reynolds, small committee.

due to retire in three years and apparently the university feels that such expertise should be replaced which raises deep implications for appointing good staff.

Low staff-student ratios have always been the aim of universities but in this review they seem to constitute black marks. The paper makes a confused series of remarks about central and south-eastern European studies.

It notes that "there are few other centres in the country, and none better established except the school of Slavonic and East European studies in London". The library of the Comenius Centre "is one of the best in the United Kingdom and contains a better collection of modern material than most libraries in Czechoslovakia". There is a research facilities and the department has an international

reputation. Against this is the staff-student ratio, and therefore the cost, the probability that students numbers will not significantly increase, and the weakness of two degree programmes offered by five staff.

It ends in ambivalence, saying that it cannot recommend continuation in the present form but that "every effort" should be made to sustain the Comenius Library and the research activities associated with it.

All the departments proposed for closure are in the humanities and it is clear that the development of such expertise should be promoted. The school of management and organizational sciences "has not made the national impact it ought to have done."

The attitude of the scientists at Lancaster, who nevertheless have done comparatively well out of the report, will be of crucial importance in the deliberations about what will happen to it.

None of the vital questions has been answered in the report. The first is whether the university, if it accepts the recommendations, will be able to withdraw from firm offers they have already given to intending students for next year. According to the Universities Central Council on Admissions, universities are obliged to take students to whom they make firm offers. It is one thing to phase out a course or a department as existing students proceed through the years but it is another for more difficult to break now commitments.

The second major problem is that of staff and trade union reaction to the document. The development committee says that enforced redundancy is not contemplated; it recognizes that there must be consultation and in some cases negotiation with the Lancaster AUEU. This includes talks of the

lute contractual right to substantial loss of new contracts and the existing use of this type of leave, fixed term contracts, and part-time contracts, early retirement and voluntary redundancy.

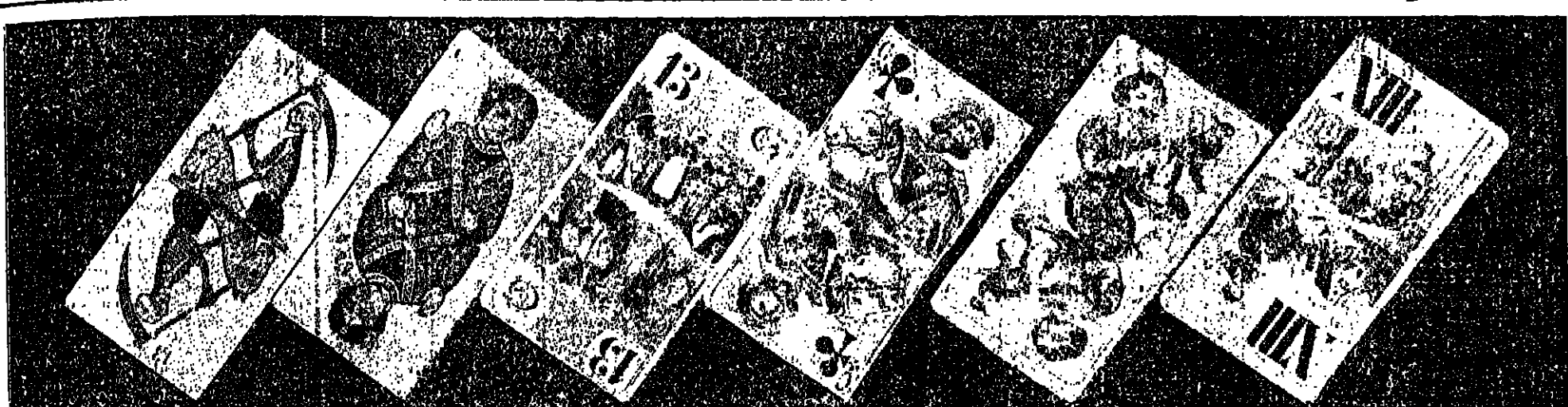
The question that of course will arise is what happens if a university teacher does not want to move to another department where he or she may face a particular specialism may be in jeopardy. At the time the document was published staff in departments which would be receiving redeployed colleagues had not been consulted. It may be that the feeling the balance of power would be upset.

The AUT nationally has just drawn up a policy statement of rationalization. It says that rationalization and that it is not opposed in principle to rationalization and that it is not opposed to the needs of the nation or as simply accountability and rational areas of teaching and research while retaining what no longer required.

But it does insist on two points: that there must be the fullest possible consultation with affected staff; and that any proposed measures must not prejudice the job security, career prospects or conditions of service of research continue to contribute to the university. It also particularly objects to the closure of departments as non-academic or intrinsically academically or financially wasteful.

So far none of the major attempts to introduce rationalization in the universities has been successful. The UGC report on rationalization in London, and the University of York, has run its course. Decisions on acceptance or implementation will be made in the next few months.

Lancaster, to some extent, has stolen their thunder. Whatever happens to the university proposals will be viewed with veiled interest by the Lancaster AUEU. This includes talks of the



## Truth about the Tarot

Playing cards are always associated with frivolity but they have an interesting international history, says Michael Dummett

If you become interested in the history of playing cards, you will soon learn to expect an incredulous response from friends in whom you confide. This reaction has two sources: a seemingly ineradicable association of playing cards and card games with frivolity; and a lack of historical curiosity.

Everyone finds it natural to ask of a building, or of a piece of jewellery or furniture, how old it is; but it occurs to people far less readily to ask the same question about a game. Most people probably have no idea at all how long there have been such things as playing cards; it has never occurred to them to wonder.

Moreover, the great majority assume that playing cards are everywhere the same, and that they have always been the same. They are entirely wrong. In this day there exists a great variety of types of playing-card pack still in use in Europe, differing from one another in design, in composition and in the suit-signs employed; the variety is even greater if we take within our view those still used in India, Vietnam, China and Japan. Card players tend, indeed, to be extremely conservative about the cards with which they play; despite that, conservative players have been known to play with cards which have been in circulation for some time and which could be implemented now.

There are two distinct, though intertwined, subjects; the history of playing cards, and the history of card games. The history of card games has been very little studied. Serious scholars have investigated, in great detail, the history of various chess is well known to be a serious matter, while card games are felt to be irredeemably frivolous.

In fact, the subject, and the activity, are no more frivolous than many aspects of human culture. It might be said that card games are a great deal of time, have been devoted to playing them, and the best of them call for strategic ingenuity as great as that required for board games. Table games, in general, represent an art form of a subtle and intricate kind, and of the danger of playing as important a part in human life; and their invention and improvement represent as remarkable an aspect of human creativity.

Because games spread, with greater ease than any other social practice, from one region to another, their history also affords fascinating examples of cultural interaction. The neglect of card games by serious investigators has deprived us of a source of insight into popular culture and its transmission.

Playing cards themselves have not been similarly neglected. Since the pioneering work of Immanuel Breitkopf, at the end of the eighteenth century, research into the history of playing cards has been a steady, well-established branch of the history of applied art; the subject of serious study and research. The interest in it is natural: the production of playing cards was an important manifestation of, and witness to, the technique of woodblock printing; and, on a more practical level, this art of copper-plate engraving, and for centuries such as Rouen, Lyons and Urm, the manufacture and export of playing cards had great economic importance.

Alongside the scholars have been the collectors. Wealthy collectors such as Melville B. Cary, Jr, whose splendid collection is now the property of Yale University Library, have amassed great assemblages of playing cards of many epochs; but the great advantage of the hobby has been that even those with relatively modest means could acquire collections of regional historical interest. In this country, Miss Sylvia Mann

has, during a lifetime of judicious buying based on deep knowledge of the subject, put together a collection probably more representative of the entire history of playing cards than has ever been done before, without the financial resources available to the rich collector such as Cary; and her ambitious collector's love, in the past, been able to acquire interesting items for a fairly modest outlay.

It could not last, of course. In quite recent years, professional agencies have become aware that there is money in playing cards; in this country, for instance, Stanley Gibbons, the stamp firm, recently entered the field. In consequence of the intervention of such firms, prices have risen steeply, while much of the fun of discovery has vanished, leaving everything gravitating to the one market.

My own interest in card games is due to something I read, in childhood, about the Tarot pack. Looking at a compendium on fortune-telling, I read in the section on Tarot cards that they were still used in various parts of Europe, to play certain complicated games. I had no belief in the use of playing cards to forecast the future; but I was fascinated by the description of the Tarot pack and intrigued to know what kind of game could be played with it.

This curiosity remained with me, and from time to time, I asked people who might be expected to know, always with negative results. And then, one year, while on holiday in Normandy with my family, I saw, in a shop window in Honfleur, a pack of Tarot cards, "avec règles du jeu", and eagerly bought it. Examining it, I had a great surprise. I had remembered, over all those years, the composition of the Tarot pack.

It should have 78 cards: 22 picture cards, four suits, consisting of King, Queen, Knight, Jack and numerical cards from 10 down to Ace, with unusual suit-signs of Swords, Bats, Cups and Coins, together with 56 plain cards, showing the Fool, the Pope, the Wheel of Fortune, the Hanged Man, the Moon and so forth. My pack had 78 cards all right, and each with the right figures; but the suits were the ordinary ones of Spades, Clubs, Hearts and Diamonds.

It also had 22 picture cards, one representing a troubadour and the rest numbered from 1 to 21; but these did not show the traditional figures of bourgeois life. We read the instruction leaflet, but not knowing standard French terminology for card games, had difficulty in understanding it; but my son, Andy, standing about in a bookshop, came running with a rather ancient booklet on the game of Tarot, in a series of card games published by Harne, Mann, and from this more explicit account, we learnt to play the game, which we found to be an excellent one.

I was delighted to have found the answer to the question that had long puzzled me; but I still thought that it would be more fun to play the "proper" Tarot pack, of the kind whose description I had read in my childhood. I therefore went to Lillers, where I remembered to

have seen Tarot cards of the traditional kind for sale. There I was disappointed to discover that the only traditional packs on sale comprised no more than the 22 picture cards, without the 56 suit cards, and was puzzled to find other packs, called Catalan, consisting of suit cards, without the picture cards, having the right suit-signs but lacking a Queen or 10 in each suit.

I also found something quite unexpected, which I thought: an Austrian pack, labelled "Tarot", made by the firm of Planch. This, though not the same in design, was like my French pack. It had one card showing a jester, and 21 picture cards, this time with Roman numerals, from I to XXI; these again lacked the traditional subjects, and showed rural scenes. In addition, there were four suits, once more with the familiar suit-signs of Spades, Clubs, Hearts and Diamonds, and with the same four court cards; but this time each suit had only four numerical cards. As to four in the two red suits, and seven in 10 in the two black ones. The box contained a leaflet in English, explaining the game, and this was even more surprising; for the game bore a recognizable resemblance to the French one, but was also strikingly different in fundamental respects.

I defy anyone, with this exception, not to wish to find out more. It was now obvious that there was not one game of Tarot, but different, and related, games played in different countries. I knew now, day in, day out, how it was played in France and Austria; but in what other countries was it played? What was the relationship between the different forms? And what was the relationship between the traditional form, an example of which, while the Austrians were busy, I had seen in my French pack, and another London shop?

I tried an encyclopedia; they gave me a little help, but not much. I wrote to experts on card games; they gave me more help, but not much. I wrote to experts on card games; they gave me more help, but not much. I wrote to experts on card games; they gave me more help, but not much.

It taught me that the system of suit-signs which I had thought of as peculiar to the Tarot pack was not confined to it at all, but was in common use for ordinary playing cards, in Italy and Spain, thus solving the puzzle which I had been unable to solve in Lillers.

It taught me that there were yet other sub-systems still in use in Europe, the German one, known as "Tarot", the Austrian one, known as "Tarot", the Austrian one, known as "Tarot", the Austrian one, known as "Tarot".

now Italian-sounding Tarot cards are used for play only in Italy and Switzerland; and it taught me much more besides.

But it did not tell me about the background; but I had still to discover what I chiefly wanted to know.

I wrote to Sylvia Mann, and she offered to help me; and from that began a long and fruitful collaboration. At first, I had no ideas of undertaking any serious piece of research; I simply wanted to know what different Tarot games were played and where. But this information proved so inaccessible that I was forced to undertake research in order to satisfy my curiosity.

As I proceeded, I became aware that no one had ever done before what I was doing. I had been publishing, principally in Austria, giving a comprehensive survey of Tarot games played in some one country; but no devotee of the game had ever had the curiosity to discover how it was played in any country, but his own, let alone to make any serious effort to trace its history. At some stage I convinced myself to do just that.

Here was a card game, an excellent and fascinating game, that had been invented, probably in the 1400s, for the nobility of Ferrara and had only four numerical cards. As to four in the two red suits, and seven in 10 in the two black ones. The box contained a leaflet in English, explaining the game, and this was even more surprising; for the game bore a recognizable resemblance to the French one, but was also strikingly different in fundamental respects.

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only worth doing in itself, but something that needed to be done soon, for it was to be done at all, and I set myself to do for the game of Tarot what H. J. K. Murray had done for chess.

Here I must allay the perplexity of many readers by interpolating some remarks about fortune-telling. The scorn of those to whom one mentions that one is interested in playing cards, or even, beside that of those whom one tells that one is doing research on Tarot cards; 99 people out of 100 will say, "You mean those cards that are used for fortune-telling". They are quite right: Tarot cards are indeed used for fortune-telling.

Not only that, but "the Tarot." has been added to the Cabbala, the Hermetic books, alchemy and astrology as a prime source of the occult, a relatively late accretion. It originated, in France, in the 18th century, but no one had thought of using Tarot cards for divination or associated them with the occult. Indeed, fortune-telling, with playing cards of any kind hardly existed before the eighteenth century.

The Tarot pack, which was, in origin, formed simply by adding the 22 picture cards to the ordinary four-suited pack, as then known in Italy, was invented solely in order to play a particular kind of card game; and it was used for no other purpose for 350 years.

It was during the great revival of occultism in France during the second half of the nineteenth century that "the Tarot" was claimed to contain, in symbolic guise, esoteric doctrine comparable to that embodied in the classic sources of European occultism: it is that feature, indeed, which particularly distinguishes the neo-occultism of the later nineteenth century from the occultist theories of the Renaissance.

But the theories of the French neo-occultists about the Tarot pack, like all their other theories, were founded on a complete ignorance of ordinary historical evidence. They were entirely ignorant of the true history of the cards; which they made not the slightest attempt to discover; instead, they made up a whole new history for them, which, though it is manifest nonsense, they have, by relentless propaganda, caused to be widely believed.

Even so, the occultist mystique of the Tarot pack did not spread to any serious extent, outside France until a century after it had originated. The first country to which it spread was Britain, in the 1890s, brought here by the Order of the Golden Dawn, an occultist society with elaborate initiation rituals and magical practices to which a number of well-known people belonged at one time or another, the most famous being W. B. Yeats. The doctrines of the Golden Dawn were largely based on those of the French occultists; and from Britain the Tarot mystique spread, at the beginning of this century, to the United States. It reached Germany in the 1920s.

Elsewhere, I believe, Tarot occultism appeared on any large scale, only after the war; now, however, so successful has been the propaganda of the occultists, that many people, including devotees of the game, who have an interest in fortune-telling, have been persuaded, quite falsely, that it was for those purposes that the cards were originally invented.

It was fortunate for me that my original interest was in games played with an unusual type of playing-card. I was fortunate that I was not

continued on page 13



The author is professor of English at the University of Colorado. He is also the author of The Enemy: A Biography of Wyndham Lewis (Routledge), editor of Wyndham Lewis: A Revaluation, which was published by The Athlone Press on May 22, and of The Enemy: A Biography of Wyndham Lewis, which is to be published by Routledge and Kegan Paul on July 3.







## BOOKS

## Levels of recombination

**Genetic Recombination: thinking about it in phage and fungi**  
by Franklin W. Stahl  
Freeman, £12.90  
ISBN 0 7167 1037 4

Genetic recombination is the process whereby chromosomes, or DNA molecules, are broken and rejoined, without any addition or deletion of the sequence of genetic information. The result is that particular genes for genetic markers which are originally on different chromosomes can end up on the same chromosome. The science of genetics depends to a very large part on crosses between parents with different genetic markers, and the analysis of the frequency of various progeny allows one to draw important conclusions about the mechanism of recombination.

Frank Stahl offers a comprehensive guide to recombination, restricting his discussion almost entirely to the two groups of organisms in which it has been studied in most detail by genetic methods, in fungi and higher organisms most recombination takes place at meiosis, and it is a great advantage if the cells produced by meiosis can be isolated directly. This is possible in fungi, but not in most organisms with meiosis. Phages are bacterial viruses, which have such a simple structure and genetic system that they are amenable to a wide range of studies on recombination at the molecular level.

Stahl pursues his review and analysis with remorseless logic, expecting the reader to follow the argument closely at every step. The alternation of chapters on phage and

fungal recombination reinforces the strength of the overall interpretation. The book is, in effect, an advanced text for the student who is prepared to spend a considerable amount of time coming to grips with the subject (not least in solving the numerous problems at the end of each chapter), and the research scientist who wishes to become thoroughly familiar with a field which is generally regarded as one of the most difficult in genetics. It is not suitable for readers with no background knowledge of genetics. The author has the advantage of a lucid, attractive style. His graphs and diagrams are well chosen, but he never deviates from facing up to the complexities. For example, mapping functions (which relate recombination frequency to physical distance) depend on a level of mathematical expertise which most readers will not have.

The overall arguments might have been easier to follow if more was made of the basic experimental facts of recombination in the earlier sections of the book and if molecular models at the DNA level were introduced later. Models are valuable for the research scientist who is trying to advance the subject by appropriately designed experiments, and also to the student who is trying to grasp the basic principles. Stahl's book may be of use to students not only as how well they cope with the general rules of recombination, but also whether they can explain the many important non-trivial exceptions, or the differences between different organisms. In Stahl's book many of these exceptions (such as the effect of genetic markers themselves on recombination) are introduced quite early on, before the models appear on the scene. Many geneticists will not be

pleased by the choice of only phages and fungi; after all, the basic work of recombination was carried out using *Drosophila* and by looking at the behaviour of chromosomes during meiosis in many species. These organisms have continued to be used for important studies of recombination — for example, the electron microscopy of the pairing of chromosomes, which must precede recombination at meiosis. None of this important work is mentioned, even though some of it has been carried out using fungi. Without referring to a wider range of organisms, it is difficult to come to grips with one of the crucial questions — namely, is genetic recombination essentially the same in all organisms, or are there several different mechanisms?

The title of the book has clearly been chosen with care. Frank Stahl is distinguished in the field not only for his very important molecular studies of recombination in bacteriophages, but also for his many provocative interpretations of recombination data. Sometimes he conveniently forgets about experimental results if it suits his own view to do so. But by and large he is in a better position than anyone else to provide a fully comprehensive overview of the mechanism of recombination in phage and fungi. The books should therefore be read by anyone who wants to know the present state of knowledge and ideas about recombination.

Robin Holliday

Robin Holliday is head of the Genetics Division of the National Institute for Medical Research, London.



St John, by Nikolaus Gohhaert (1462). Georgskirche, Nordlingen. Taken from The Limewood Sculptors of Renaissance Germany, by Michael Baxandall, published by Yale University Press at £25.00.

## Kinetics

**Chemical Kinetics and Reaction Mechanisms**  
by J. Wilkinson  
Van Nostrand Reinhold, £15.00 and £7.50  
ISBN 0 442 30248 7 and 30249 5

As the range and depth of chemical knowledge grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to give undergraduate students a good, basic grounding in the subject, while simultaneously exposing them to new and exciting techniques and discoveries. Within physical chemistry, this growth is demonstrated by the remarkable expansion of J. Wilkinson's classic textbook. Probably rather a few universities cover all the topics in the latest edition, and most university lecturers will be familiar with meetings where numerous suggestions for new material in the following year's course are discussed with the difficulty of knowing what to omit for the present lectures.

Comparable difficulties of selection face any author of an undergraduate textbook, on any major subject, such as chemical kinetics and reaction mechanisms. Given the reluctance of many undergraduates to purchase anything other than a main textbook for each branch of the subject, a reasonable, if mildly radical, policy would be to concentrate only on those topics which are particularly difficult and which are therefore treated in a skilfully, or not at all, in the major textbooks. After all, one of the latter now devote between 100 and 200 pages to kinetics, photochemistry and mechanisms.

Professor Wilkinson has chosen a more traditional approach, but his book begins with four clear, comprehensive chapters on such topics as units, rate laws, reaction orders, mechanisms and experimental techniques. Subsequently, what I would view as the main body of the book contains chapters on theories of elementary reaction reactions, heterogenous reactions and photochemical processes.

Not surprisingly, in view of Professor Wilkinson's many contributions to the subject, the chapters on elementary reaction reactions, elsewhere, there are points where the depth of the treatment has been sacrificed to the width of the coverage. This is especially true in the chapters on theories of elementary reaction reactions where several somewhat misleading statements appear.

For example, because almost any interested undergraduate is perplexed by transition state theory when he is first confronted by it, I am always anxious to see how it is explained in an undergraduate textbook on chemical kinetics. Here, it is rightly emphasised that activated complexes are not reactive intermediates. However, some of the subsequent wording may lead to an unsuspicious reader, with an incorrect view of the transition state, to believe that the nature of the equilibrium between the activated complexes and the reagent species, the one point where I preferred the explanation.

The book contains chapters on theories of elementary reaction reactions, heterogenous reactions and photochemical processes. Not surprisingly, in view of Professor Wilkinson's many contributions to the subject, the chapters on elementary reaction reactions, elsewhere, there are points where the depth of the treatment has been sacrificed to the width of the coverage. This is especially true in the chapters on theories of elementary reaction reactions where several somewhat misleading statements appear.

R. L. F. Boyd

R. L. F. Boyd is director of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College London, at Holmbury St Mary, Surrey.

## BOOKS

## Buddhists in Tibet

**The Religions of Tibet**  
by Giuseppe Tucci  
Edizioni Paoli, £8.95  
ISBN 0 7100 0204 1

In spite of the Chinese Communist invasion of Tibet the Buddhism of Tibet survives. It survives not only in the Chinese-occupied territory, but Chinese officials have virtually destroyed Tibetan civilization in the lands around Tibet, in Sikkim, in Bhutan, in parts of Nepal and parts of India. Here it not only survives and flourishes but has even led to something of a religious revival, in those parts of India where there has been an influx of refugee Tibetan Lamas.

Dr Samuel has rendered non-Tibetan specialists a great service in this very readable English translation of Tucci's *Religioni del Tibet e del Buddhismo*. He has added some valuable notes which bring Tucci's text of 1970 up to date; he has also provided an excellently arranged glossary of Tibetan words and names (in the glossary, the Tibetan words are listed in alphabetical order, has the merit of being usable by non-specialists, even though, as he adds, it will "probably seem inelegant to Tibetans").

Professor Tucci divides the religions of Tibet into three: Tibetan Buddhism (Lamism), Tibetan folk religion, and Bon religion. By far the greater part of the book is devoted to the first of these. The presentation of its general characteristics naturally entails a brief

historical review of the religious, cultural, and political developments leading to the state at which, by the end of the fifteenth century, "Lamism" had reached its definitive form. Various schools of Indian Buddhism assumed their special forms in the climate of Tibet, although, as Tucci emphasizes, there were certain important assumptions common to all the schools with regard both to doctrine and to practice, both in their life and their monastic forms.

The longest chapter in the book is that dealing with the life of the monasteries and with folk tradition. Some studies of Tibetan religion deal only with Buddhism and Bon; the former is represented as an innovation and the latter as the indigenous religion. This misapprehension about Bon (based on the fact that it was there before Buddhism) Professor Tucci dispels with his detailed account of the various stages which flowed into the Bon religion from Central Asia, Kashmir, China, Iran and even from the Islamic world. Genuine indigenous is the folk religion, "widely known and followed" among the ordinary people, governing their daily life and determining their attitude to the world around them.

While Tucci frequently refers to the work of his fellow Tibetologists, especially when dealing with the Bon and the folk religion, his own contribution is always obvious in his writing. On the doctrines of the most important schools (chapter four) and the life of the monastery and its festivals (chapter five), the latter illustrates particularly well the quality of the book's texture

throughout, and the materials from which it has been woven. There are, principally, Professor Tucci's long personal experience of Tibetan Buddhism, and the critical review, which he had carried out just before writing this book, of a large number of Tibetan texts, of which a list of 163 is given here. The manner in which the themes derived from Indian Buddhist philosophy have been combined with complex themes from Tibetan culture is carefully and closely demonstrated. Tucci makes it clear that the study of this religion and culture demands the utmost rigour; undisciplined and dilettante cult-watching have no place here.

Tibetan Buddhist modes of thought must be allowed to stand in their own right; they cannot be adequately represented by Western philosophical concepts, and this means that they have to be explored and examined and absorbed over a long period. Moreover, the vast literature of Tibetan Buddhism is, as Tucci observes, "so enormous that a single human life is not enough to master it". These are daunting words, but they do not deter the serious reader from setting out on a journey of exploration, for even from afar he may catch something of the feel of a civilization whose perspectives may help to correct some of the imbalances in our own.

Trevor Ling

Trevor Ling is professor of comparative religion at Manchester University.

## Rastafarians in Britain

**Rastaman: the Rastafarian movement in England**  
by Ernest Cashmore  
Allen & Unwin, £10.00  
ISBN 0 04 301108 7

In November, 1930, the Prince Regent of Ethiopia, Ras Tafari, was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia and invested with the title Haile Selassie I, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Marcus Garvey, the mighty leader of African people, was believed to have urged black people to "Look to Africa

when a Black King shall be crowned, for the day of deliverance is near". Set in a context of religious and political attitudes conveying the spiritual and material aspects of Afro-Jamaicans this is sufficient to cause a deep secular and divine significance to be attached to the King and his coronation. The Rastafarian cult, semi-religious and semi-political, has survived oppression and suppression in Jamaica and has now emerged among young black people in Britain, outwardly characterized by hairstyle (hair worn in locks), tams (woolly hats), clothing in red, green, gold and black, and a style of speech which expresses the dignity and sense of unity ("I and I") of the brothers and sisters who have adopted it.

The adoption of Rastafarian beliefs and modes of life by young blacks in Britain is part symptom and part exacerbation of a breach with the first generation of Caribbean immigrants to Britain. Against the degradation of people, traditions and symbols colored black, they have countered the dignity of the face of the contradiction of integration and racism they have fashioned a social and spiritual engagement from "Babylon", the name they give to the corrupted societies of the Diaspora. At the point where the sometimes fragile family life of West Indian immigrants broke, where British schools failed them, and where Afro-Caribbean music infiltrated Britain from Jamaica, at those points Rastafarianism emerged in British society. Black Power movements of the late 1960s faltered, but in their train Rastafarianism made a broader and more flexible appeal. Where Ras Tafari teaches disengagement from Babylon it may be seen as withdrawal; where it endorses dignity, pride and historical consciousness, it fosters a confrontation with racist practices and beliefs in British society.

Ernest Cashmore's book *Rastaman* is the first account to trace the growth of the movement in Britain; it is based on two years' close association with the movement's followers; and it is deeply rooted in the sociological perspectives, accompanied with "detailed subtext" of knowledge. It is an important and valuable book and

my reservations and criticisms are not intended to obscure that fact. The introductory chapters deal in a detailed and interesting way with the historical origins of the movement as a movement, and in less detail with the social and economic circumstances surrounding its growth. After this the account descends, too deeply for my taste, into a re-run of Berger and Luckmann's *The Social Construction of Reality* (Rastaman providing the "data" for a heavy diet of "theory") but his reappearance in the excellent chapters and passages on the interlacing of music, youth culture, gang life and "encounters with Babylon". The author's forced attempts at colourful descriptive language, the repetitious sociological and his tendency to see Rastafarians as members of a "bizarre" (the word appears throughout) cult, all seem to place a distance between Cashmore and his subject, a considerable irony in the case of a writer who speaks of his insulative humanistic approach oriented to the "actor's point of view". Rastaman are not permitted to speak at length and depth in this book, their statements appearing as "anecdotes". Illustrations of the sociology (one such quotation makes no less than eight appearances).

His attitude to Black Power is awkward — we read of the "notorious" Marcus Garvey, the "notorious" of Black Power, and the "infamous" Stokely Carmichael; by contrast his account of Rastafarian relations with Asians is wonderfully sensitive, disturbing and even moving. The most extraordinary error occurs on page 39 where he confuses the 1962 Commonwealth Immigration Act, a mistake of some magnitude; there is much repetition and other signs of hurried preparation. But, with all, it is in many parts a sensitive and evocative account, a product of magnificent effort and imagination. It tells us much about its topic — but perhaps no more than Rastafians would like it.

Only those with insight enough to see the light of Africa will accept the truth of Ras Tafari. If I reveal to you everything about I then I lay myself open; this is not good for a man.

Steven Fenton

Steven Fenton is lecturer in sociology at Bristol University.

## OCTOBER —1917—

## A Social History of the Russian Revolution

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## Personal approach to the romance of science

**Broca's Brain: the romance of science**  
by Carl Sagan  
Moulder & Stoughton/Coronet, £6.95 and £1.75  
ISBN 0 340 24424 0 and 25347 9

"Broca was a superb brain anatomist... today perhaps best known for his discovery of a small region in the third convolution of the left frontal lobe of the cerebral cortex... Articulate speech is to an important extent localized in and controlled by Broca's area... And there was Broca's brain, floating in formalin and in fragments before me, difficult to hold. Broca's brain without wondering whether in some sense Broca was still in there..."

This abbreviated extract from Sagan's first chapter captures something of his whimsical wisdom, his literary, sensitive and always personal approach to the romance of science. For Sagan the romance involves sociology and politics, history, philosophy and religion.

This collection of essays would have been more informative if less intriguingly entitled *Sagan's Mind*. For Sagan is a whole man and this book is a kind of intellectual autobiography, a window into his soul, with its poetry, and humour and human concern always outstripping the science on which his value judgments or mere guesses seek to base themselves.

Sagan is well known for believing passionately in the galactic future of mankind, and why should he not, if he judges that that is how the weight of evidence points? It is perhaps a pity that he does not accord quite the same status to (other) religious faiths but sees them rather as calling for a somewhat speculative Freudian analysis. The other crusade that Sagan engages on, with none of the cruelty and far more sympathy for his opponents than the first crusader ever showed, concerns what he calls "paradoxers". Velikovsky is the paradigm of paradoxers and his career is overkill and the ashes distributed by

cosmic dust in chapter seven and in four semi-mathematical appendices. Other paradoxers suffer an equally sure if more concise fate in the second of the five major sections of the book. The other sections deal in a total of 25 largely self-standing chapters with "Science and Human Concern", "Our Neighbourhood in Space", "The Future", and "Ultimate Questions". It will surprise some that among the latter ontology clearly seems to the author far more ultimate than ethics. Why ought I to be submerged beneath "Why am I?"

At least one essay in each main section has been drawn from earlier material written by the author; a memorial lecture to the American Psychiatric Association (Broca's Brain and the Amniotic Universe), a talk to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Venus and Velikovsky), a banquet speech at the National Space Club (The Golden Age of Planetary Exploration), a symposium on Godard's work (Via Cherry Tree

to Mars), and Cornell University (A Sunday Sermon). As Sagan says in his introduction, "The range of topics may seem diverse, but in a crystal of salt to the structure of the cosmos, myth and legend, birth and death, robots and climates, the exploration of the planets, the nature of intelligence, the search for life beyond the Earth."

For erudition Sagan compares well with paradoxers like Velikovsky and Erich von Daniken, although for consistent thinking he is far above them. Nevertheless, much is speculation and much is imagination. It should not, therefore, all be taken as the agreed doctrine of science, for this is a book for the gourmet who knows which parts to reject.

R. L. F. Boyd

R. L. F. Boyd is director of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College London, at Holmbury St Mary, Surrey.

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Ian W. M. Smith

Ian W. M. Smith is lecturer in physical chemistry at the University of Cambridge





## BOOKS

## In search of the obscene

Obscenity  
by Geoffrey Robertson  
Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £16.00  
and £8.50  
ISBN 0 297 77213 9 and 77459 X

The predominant insight in any study of obscenity law must be the impossibility of drawing any lines between liberty and policy that are going to be workable, consistent and fair. Unhappily the topic also allows great scope for the passion of the paternalist who always has to know, with irrefutable moral certainty, what is good for other people. The intensity of feeling is shown by the comment of the Liverpool stipendiary who, when told that oral sex was not an uncommon practice, remarked: "If this is really so, I am glad I do not have to live in Liverpool." This book is an eloquent testimony to the predicament of the law, its uncertainty and inefficiency of the present law. This dispassionate examination of the workings of the Obscene Publications Act and the case law on obscenity, indecency and other assorted rudeness was occasioned by the author's weariness with those "periodic moral flashpoints" that motivate as obscenity trials. Although sometimes entertaining, these occasions are startling, enervating and, in the end, the legal morass is governed by "the rule of the Director of Public Prosecutions' thumb". One must agree that the criminal court is not the forum for making value judgments on literature or punishing suppliers of bad taste. Robertson not only examines the substantive law but also considers the behaviour of legislators, the DPP, judges, policemen, customs officers and private prosecutors, all revealing the deep divisions in society produced by the issue of

sexual permissiveness. As to the identity of the consumer, there is evidence to show that the myth of the dirty old man has been exploded: most of the dirty old men who were opened as often as not a pin striped suit was underneath. Much of the book rehearsed the "doleful ambiguities" resulting from the enforcement of the Obscene Publications Act of 1959 and 1964. The prosecuting authorities, usually the police lawyers in consultation with the DPP, have a discretion either to use civil proceedings for forfeiture and destruction or criminal proceedings if it is thought that the material has a tendency to deprave and corrupt those persons likely to read, see, hear or otherwise come into contact with it. The phrase "likely to deprave and corrupt" has more significance than shock and disgust has been accepted by the courts, as for instance, in the *Last Exit* Court of Appeal affirmed that it meant moral corruption. Unfortunately no guidance was forthcoming on the meaning of moral corruption. The truth is that no precise meaning can be given to the phrase: one can only substitute different meaningless words. In 1973, the House of Lords ruled that "deprave and corrupt" requires some change for the worse in the character of likely readers to be shown, although these changes need not be manifest in anti-social behaviour. This means that any material enabling the reader to conjure up private fantasies, without any overt sexual activity of any kind, is to be labelled "obscene". This concern with the protection of people's minds is a dictatorial paternalism, which, as Robertson says, most books today would be obscene if corruption meant merely provoking a preoccupation with erotic fantasies.

Furthermore, there must be something wrong with the powers of search and seizure when the Liverpool magistrate issued a summons to W. H. Smith and Sons in respect of *The Japs of Sex* weeks after Treasury counsel instructed by the DPP had stated in the County Court that this book was not, and could not be, considered obscene. No one can but be disturbed when reading that after the police have obtained a warrant to seize material suspected of being obscene, they can seize any documents on the premises, even if they are not related to the suspected item. The fact that the police do not have to give receipts for such property seized and the fact of no right for the owner to claim for loss after the seizure, or a returned after a hearing, are disquieting aspects. The author has many sensible and workable suggestions for tidying up such procedures. Indeed, this is so when he discusses the "reversion theory", the "target audience" requirement that the material be "taken as a whole" and the irrelevance of the defendant's intention in criminal proceedings. The author suggests the repeal of the 1959 Act and the replacement of it by a new Act which would be written in material, pictorial material could be prohibited by publishers, the police or customs officials to a newly established Classification Board which would license for general or limited sale. The Board would be able to license some specialist shops "in discreet city locations" selling pornography considered unfit for open sale to adults. These suggestions can now be compared with the proposals of the Williams Committee based on the dubious distinction between material that should be prohibited on the basis of harms caused and material subject to restrictions only because of the public's interest in it. Robertson is right in seeing this solution as the most attractive because it provides a measured endorsement of the values of liberty and privacy. However, he decides on the above reform rather than abolition because of the powerful lobbies in this country which would be offended by the publication of certain material in any form or any place. A subject provoking such strong feeling can sometimes be very amusing. Sir Dingle Foot having brought *The Perfumed Garden* to the House of Commons, he was out of the country had it confiscated on his way back in. A book published in 1891 had the unbelievable title: *Raped on the Railway: a true story of a lady who was first raped and then defecated on the Scotch Express*. In 1976 the officials seized an edition of the work of Thomas Rowlandson not realising that the originals were in the George IV collection at Windsor Castle. One can learn the meaning of "yodeling in the canyon" by reading the *Oz*.

Of course, there have been some dramatic interventions by the Lord Chamberlain, all done for the maintenance of public standards, including the banning of a revue song called "Even Hitler has a mother" and a prohibition on Russia's plays "the permanent interests of the stage". Howard Davies is lecturer in law at the University of Leeds.

A completely revised edition of *The Law of Redundancy* by Cyril Grant has just been published by Sweet & Maxwell at £29.00 and £19.75 (paperback). This second edition takes into account the hundreds of relevant new cases decided since 1970 as well as the many statutory changes introduced in the same period. Two new chapters reflect two important legal innovations: the compulsory consultation with recognised trade unions and the application of the law of unfair dismissal to redundancy.

Further, there must be something wrong with the powers of search and seizure when the Liverpool magistrate issued a summons to W. H. Smith and Sons in respect of *The Japs of Sex* weeks after Treasury counsel instructed by the DPP had stated in the County Court that this book was not, and could not be, considered obscene. No one can but be disturbed when reading that after the police have obtained a warrant to seize material suspected of being obscene, they can seize any documents on the premises, even if they are not related to the suspected item. The fact that the police do not have to give receipts for such property seized and the fact of no right for the owner to claim for loss after the seizure, or a returned after a hearing, are disquieting aspects. The author has many sensible and workable suggestions for tidying up such procedures. Indeed, this is so when he discusses the "reversion theory", the "target audience" requirement that the material be "taken as a whole" and the irrelevance of the defendant's intention in criminal proceedings. The author suggests the repeal of the 1959 Act and the replacement of it by a new Act which would be written in material, pictorial material could be prohibited by publishers, the police or customs officials to a newly established Classification Board which would license for general or limited sale. The Board would be able to license some specialist shops "in discreet city locations" selling pornography considered unfit for open sale to adults. These suggestions can now be compared with the proposals of the Williams Committee based on the dubious distinction between material that should be prohibited on the basis of harms caused and material subject to restrictions only because of the public's interest in it. Robertson is right in seeing this solution as the most attractive because it provides a measured endorsement of the values of liberty and privacy. However, he decides on the above reform rather than abolition because of the powerful lobbies in this country which would be offended by the publication of certain material in any form or any place. A subject provoking such strong feeling can sometimes be very amusing. Sir Dingle Foot having brought *The Perfumed Garden* to the House of Commons, he was out of the country had it confiscated on his way back in. A book published in 1891 had the unbelievable title: *Raped on the Railway: a true story of a lady who was first raped and then defecated on the Scotch Express*. In 1976 the officials seized an edition of the work of Thomas Rowlandson not realising that the originals were in the George IV collection at Windsor Castle. One can learn the meaning of "yodeling in the canyon" by reading the *Oz*.

## Equal before the law

The 'Equal Protection' of the Laws  
by Polyvios G. Polyviou  
Duckworth, £42.00  
ISBN 0 7156 1399 5

How should benefits and burdens be distributed as between one member of society and another? It was Aristotle, we are told, who first propounded the maxim of treating equals equally and treating unequals unequally. That, of course, is only a formal principle: it begs the question, "equal (or unequal) in what respects?" What resemblances and differences between the person and another will be considered relevant? Does every person, in whom a particular law applies, have a right merely to stand on an equal footing with every other person to whom that law relates? If so, the regard of that right is clearly compatible with the law of equality before the law. If, on the other hand, something more is meant, then—something being at the very heart of legislation—is no law to be safe from attack? Any constitutional guarantee of "equality before the law" or "the equal protection of the laws" then will pose endless problems for the judiciary.

It is these problems that are the subject of the present volume. Mr Polyviou is an Oxford law don who has written extensively on the constitutional problems of Cyprus (two books to date on that subject alone, with a third promised for the autumn). In the meantime he has published this exhaustive study of a central provision in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the USA. The Amendment reads (in part) as follows: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Enacted in the aftermath of the Civil War to assure the newly won rights of negroes, it now occupies a central role in the American constitutional system. Any treatment of the Fourteenth Amendment must clearly devote a considerable amount of space to the history of racial discrimination. Mr Polyviou does this in lively detail, the demarcation of the "separate but equal" doctrine, so long the legal prop of racial segregation, the monumental decision of the Supreme Court in *Brown v Board of Education* (which dealt the final blow to that doctrine), and the extremely topical constitutional problems involved in the busing of school children. The arguments for and against racial discrimination are rehearsed at length, though unfortunately the Supreme Court's decision on the constitutionality of that practice, in *Regents of the University of California v Bakke*, arrived too late for integration into the text and has had to be relegated to an appendix. The allied issues of sex discrimination come in for ample discussion, too. Is the equal protection

guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment, suitably refined, the solution to the problems of the long delayed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment ("Equal rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex")? In other chapters we see the development of the Amendment to such diverse areas as correcting gross disparities in the size of electoral constituencies and the "equal protection" limb of the Amendment is compared and contrasted with the "due process of law" limb. Separate chapters are devoted to the "equal protection of the laws" guarantees in the Canadian Bill of Rights and the Indian Constitution, and for good measure, there are appendices on the discrimination provisions in English law and under the European Convention on Human Rights. Through out there is ample reference to the fundamental issues of the proper role of the courts in the determination of "justiciable" issues, and to the else besides of that rich brew of law and political theory that is American constitutional law. The preliminary sketch of the various roles of the courts in the various parts of the book is a satisfactory part of the book, indicating considerable agreement between the jury verdict and the result which the authors would have reached had they been deciding the issue. It is all the more striking then, that the major finding which emerged from this study was one of considerable dissatisfaction expressed by respondents about jury verdicts.

The study was on a large scale, examining a total of 300 consecutive cases in the Birmingham Crown Court during 1975 and 1976. Subsequently 370 became the subject of an undirected jury verdict. Of these, 256 resulted in convictions and 114 in acquittals. Bald in and bald out, the study adopted the first technique referred to above: presenting and defence solicitors, the police officer in charge of the case and the jury judge were asked to complete questionnaires. Acquittals were regarded as questionable when the judge and at least one other respondent thought that the acquittal was not justified. No fewer than 41 cases, 36 per cent of the acquittals, were so classified. In conviction cases there was less disagreement as to what was expected from the high standard of proof required, although even there great uncertainty was expressed as to the correctness of a small group of convictions. How to explain the disagreement between this study and the previous ones? Which finding is most in accordance with the truth? The moral temptation, of course, is to side with the majority and treat the present study as an isolated anomaly. However, as Professor Noel Walker has reminded us in his book *Crime and Punishment in Great Britain*, we must beware of the "democratic fallacy". To arrive at a conclusion by taking a vote, instead of deciding which in-

Dr Jaconelli is lecturer in law at Manchester University.

## Considering verdicts

by John Baldwin and Michael J. Conville  
Oxford Press: Oxford University Press, 1979  
Pp. 145  
ISBN 0 19 825350 8

The institution of the jury has always provoked extreme reactions. It has been seen by its defenders as the glory of English law ("blackstone") and "the lamp that shows that freedom lives" (Lord Denning). Others have castigated it as an absurdity and an anachronism. The purpose of the authors' research described in this book was to evaluate the performance of the jury in a series of criminal trials, to identify the factors which caused the jury to reach its verdicts, and to assess its efficiency in establishing the truth. The methods that have been used to far to examine the system of the jury fall into two main categories: first, those that have assessed jury verdicts by seeking the views of participants in the trial, other the judge and prosecuting counsel; and second, those that have relied on simulated or "mock" juries. The great weight of previous research of both these kinds has generally been in favour of the jury, with a few dissenting voices. A considerable agreement between the jury verdict and the result which the authors would have reached had they been deciding the issue. It is all the more striking then, that the major finding which emerged from this study was one of considerable dissatisfaction expressed by respondents about jury verdicts.

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Dr Jaconelli is lecturer in law at Manchester University.

## BOOKS

## Would you know him again?

Eyewitness Testimony  
by Elizabeth F. Loftus  
Harvard University Press, £9.00  
ISBN 0 674 28775 4

A demonstration that particular factors systematically bias the reliability of legal decisions must be of urgent social concern. Elizabeth Loftus is an experimental psychologist and an authority on human memory who has worked for many years to document the unreliability of eyewitness testimony. In this book she reviews (some of the best of it her own) it is now fractionally less likely that any United States court will repeat an error so tragic as the 30-year imprisonment of Charles Stark for a murder he did not commit. Yet in America Loftus's work is not well known. In fact, she has been interviewed at first hand or in interview jurors after their service has been completed. Thus, a study of this kind which relies upon indirect methods is concerned not with the actual reasoning of the jury but with a subjective evaluation of the jury's performance. On the question of jury composition, it was found that the jury was generally representative of the community as regards age and social class, but was white and male. There was, however, no evidence to suggest any relationship between the composition of the jury and the verdict returned.

The authors finally attempt to tackle the controversial question as to whether the so-called professional criminal is able to manipulate the trial system to his own advantage and so obtain an acquittal. Using a more satisfactory definition of the professional criminal than previous studies, it was found that such persons were not acquitted more often and on conviction received more severe sentences than other offenders. The whole work is well presented and attractively written. The authors eschew any temptation to make extravagant statements about the criminal justice system. They draw from the evidence. It is, then, disturbing to have to record that the Bar found itself unable to participate in the study for reasons (set out in the back) which remain wholly unconvincing. The chairman of the Bar stated that "the jury might be less likely to give credence to the arguments of counsel if they knew that counsel might privately hold a different view of the case". Can it be seriously maintained that jurymen believe counsel to have the same view of the case as the client in every instance? And, even if they do, is this any reason for keeping them in ignorance? Surely not. Only by patient and careful research, wholly unconvincing as we arrive at their worthwhile conclusions as to their merits or otherwise. This book is a step in the right direction.

John Beaumont is senior lecturer in law at Leeds Polytechnic.

an expert witness on fallibility of testimony was disallowed on the grounds that, as a scientist working in a laboratory, she could not possibly tell the jury anything it did not know already. Being a woman of spirit, and an excellent scientist, she went back to her laboratory to discover what people actually did know about factors influencing accuracy of testimony. As might be expected her subjects recognized that all the factors she asked them about had some effects on memory. The point was that not all of them recognized all the factors, and that most of them were quite unaware how great the effects of these factors might be, what they might act in combination. In short her subjects were quite unaware how fragile and unreliable a grasp we have on our past experience. In my view this had news is a second potent factor in the neglect of evidence such as Loftus presents. Experimental psychologists can only work by exposing the limitations of human performance. These limitations are very uncomfortable to consider. We are all bound to use the best of our subjective experience. Our memories are the basis of our feelings of individual existence. It is unpleasant that they should turn out to be unreliable, and almost infinitely alterable. It seems that human memory is not even as reliable as we think it is. A much edited and noisy version of past events. It is less reliable than this because when remembering we do not examine traces of previous sense data but rather reconstruct, re-work and store inferences made from previous recollections of past events in the light of our subsequent experiences. Here Loftus's work is of great theoretical interest in allowing a distinction between the original memory of a past event and the memory of a recollection of the past event. Her experiments begin to give us techniques for distinguishing three possibilities: First that the original trace of a past event, and the memory of a recollection of a past event may coexist so that under propitious circumstances we may recall them both and identify each for what it is. Second, an altered memory, perhaps the recollection of a recollection, may completely displace and supplant the original memory which is never again accessible. Finally, residual memory may represent some merger or combination of an original memory and the recollection of a recollection of that memory. Loftus's clever experiments present good evidence for the second and third possibilities. They are certainly strong enough to increase our existential unease. On the final question as to how such evidence may be used in practical legal situations Loftus is again a sane, clear guide. Her appendix shows how information about the unreliability of testimony may be lucidly presented in a courtroom and very shrewdly (and by no means uncritically) evaluated by a judge to throw light on the relative credibility of a series of confused recollections of particular events. In her presentation of this evidence, as throughout this book, Loftus is a quiet, sincere and reliable guide to this important research and its applications. Patrick Rabbitt

Dr Rabbitt is lecturer in the department of experimental psychology at Oxford.

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Compiled by Morris L. Cohen, Naomi Ronen and Jan Stepan

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## The MIT Press

300 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SD















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## Laurie Taylor



"Before we start I wonder if I might ask Professor Dranger to extinguish his cigar. Sorry to mention it Douglas, but as you will recall, we decided last term that smoking might only take place while agenda items having even numbers were being discussed. Excellent. Right, item 1: two new proposals for academically second-rate but commercially sound postgraduate courses. Dr Tranter would you like to speak to your submission?"

"Thank you sir, I think the document probably speaks for itself. Basically the proposal is for a new diploma, which, with appropriate reference (or should one say deference) to our sponsor, we are calling the *Trust House Forte diploma in hotel management and gourmet catering*. There are good signs that there is a demand for such a course in overseas countries, particularly those with a developing tourist potential. We have, for example, already received enquiries from Chad and Oman. As you see, we've initially fixed the fee at £6,000 per annum, but this does of course include a sum for the purchase of essential equipment, such things as... erm... mixers, graters, pudding hobs, drying-up cloths. That sort of thing."

"I think my only reservation here, Dr Tranter, is about expertise. I wonder if you can do anything to persuade the idea that the department to handle such a course is the department of philosophy. Might it not be more appropriately located, say, in the department of social administration?"

"I do take this point, sir, but if I might remind you of your own remarks in last year's annual report to senate, 'No department can any longer rely on its established reputation, the advent of academic monetarism means that our new operational principle must be dog-eat-dog'. I think we owe readiness to enter the marketplace has been well established in our part of the PHD programme on Love Lives of the Great Philosophers."

"Splendid advocacy, Doctor Tranter. Spirited advocacy. I think after that we can only wish you and your colleagues well. Now Professor Frink, you have a second proposal to place before us, I understand."

"Exactly sir. Basically what we in the department of peace studies would like to propose is an MA(SAS): that is a two-year taught course which would enable students to consider theoretical and practical aspects of SAS work with particular reference to the relationship between SAS successes and the revival of Britain as a major world power."

"You have, I understand, taken expert advice on this course?"

"Indeed sir. We've had several very interesting and, of course, confidential discussions about the syllabus with Professor X, and we already have an impressive list of guest lecturers which includes Brigadier Y and hopefully Dr W. As we indicate in our submission, we have got over the problem of prospective anonymity in this sensitive area by allocating such experts to lecture from behind the Blackboard."

"Most promising. Just one small point. I appreciate the need to capitalize fully on public interest in the topic, but I wonder if we are not taking excessive charges of over-commercialization by adopting your suggestions for the degree ceremony. Clearly awards are dispensable in these modern times, but it does seem surprising, dominating to ask the Chancellor to present degrees, especially to a large group of students wearing camouflage battledress and balaclava helmets. Just a point, you understand."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Case for a University of Cyprus

Sir,—In concluding his article on the case for a University in Cyprus (May 2), John Eggleston referred to the fact that Unesco had been asked to take part in a study on the proposal for a University of Cyprus; your readers may be interested in some personal views on this matter.

The study in which I took part was broader than the previous reports on a university in Cyprus referred to by Professor Eggleston. The purpose of the mission was not only to assess the case for a university but also to undertake a feasibility study including its possible nature, objectives and organization and to prepare a programme of implementation.

Most of the economic and educational statistics studied and analysed by the team were provided by the Cyprus government. However, during the course of the mission numerous formal and informal visits were arranged to consider the proposed university with a wide range of individuals and representative groups throughout the whole island.

Analysis of all the data used as the basis of the study demonstrated that there is already an exceptional high level of demand for participation in higher education, albeit in overseas universities and polytechnics—and that there is a substantial economic and industrial base to support a university. The latest information available, up to 1978, confirmed with remarkable accuracy the consistent and increasing demand for higher education and economic development made in the earlier reports. Thus, in my view, the case for a university of Cyprus based on the available demographic and economic data is indeed formidable.

It was, however, the meetings with the people throughout the island which were in many ways

more compelling and which left the most lasting impressions. In all the discussions there was an intense, almost obsessive, interest in education and in the proposed university. In one small village I asked the owner of a guest house why he thought that the island needed a university. He replied with the kindness and patience the Cypriots reserve for all visitors—particularly the English—"For our children, our island and our culture."

The level of interest and commitment, which was apparent throughout the whole island whenever education was discussed, is already reflected in the very high academic standards achieved at secondary and tertiary levels.

Individual and representative groups in both communities insisted that the island must have a good university and defined this as one which achieved demonstrably high standards but which was also relevant to the real needs of the whole island and its Mediterranean setting. The concept of a philosopher as someone who "knew nothing about everything" was quoted frequently, plus the view that many of the young Cypriots who return from overseas universities—unhappy including some from the UK—had acquired high expectations but little useful knowledge or capability.

There was also concern at all levels that so many of the most intelligent young people—about 15,000 per annum out of a total population of about 750,000—should be studying overseas during their formative years. This separation not only reduces the opportunities to generate understanding and co-operation between the groups but also deprives the island of the influence and contribution of these young people during these critical

years. It is impossible to discuss the present situation in Cyprus without considering the political dimension. One of the most striking, and possibly tragic, aspects of the whole consultation process was the extent to which the educational needs and aspirations of the two bitterly divided communities were in fact identical. It was particularly distressing also to meet people in both communities who had been friends and colleagues in the past working together for the future of their island, but who were now forcibly separated and who recognized helplessly the growing danger of the new generations growing up in isolation from each other.

The information is yet available on whether or not Unesco can or will support a University of Cyprus. This will obviously depend upon other priorities and pressures economic and political. It is not the least of the ironies encountered during the mission that the delay over a decision of the university, for what ever reason, combined with the economic recovery may erode the case for international assistance.

It is too much to hope, however, that a University of Cyprus with safeguards to ensure that it truly serves the whole island could, during its establishment and as a result of its operation, act as a catalyst to break the current impasse, giving both communities and their young people a common aim and interest? Once established it would provide a forum for objective views, discussion and mutual understanding which would surely lead to a permanent peaceful and productive coexistence for the people throughout the island.

Yours faithfully,  
D. H. W. HYKIN,  
Assistant Director,  
Polytechnic of the South Bank.

## Merger threat to Bath Academy

Sir,—Rationalization and restructuring are current (and inevitable) problems for nearly all higher education institutions. They are much beloved by administrators and their unseemly economic and political pressures are much beloved by county councils and education committees.

As a result, much of the discourse of vital academic life is all too often concerned with "out of focus" low priority matters. It would appear that such matters are about to cloud the vision of Corsham (Bath Academy) and its Education Committee.

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## Apartheid's enemies behind the door

month's decision by the Association of Teachers to support the moral argument that liberal institutions must share some of the moral burden that attaches to the society as a whole.

Neither argument is entirely sound. It is probably true that, short of physical intervention, a total trade and diplomatic boycott of South Africa is the most potent weapon available to apartheid's enemies overseas. But the pressure of such an all-out boycott at present seems remote. In its absence it makes little sense to impose measures whose only effect will be to penalize the few liberal institutions in South Africa which offer some resistance, however marginal, to the practice of apartheid, and to driving South African universities off from international scholarship, visiting academics and humane ideas, overseas countries could play into the hands of those who would like to see the nation's universities become even more inward and passive.

The moral argument is a more complex one. It is true that South African universities have been forced by the government to organize themselves on segregated lines and, in so far as they contribute to economic growth or the cultural resources of the nation, contribute to the survival of the regime. But it is also true that universities such as Witwatersrand and Cape Town have offered significant resistance to the government. They have taken advantage of their relative freedom to offer a more liberal and humane education to black and white students alike.

It is unlikely that they have done enough, however. The long record of protest by the English language universities to the "closing" of the campuses has recently taken on an unmistakably ritualistic

appearance. The annual ceremonies and freedom lectures calling for the desegregation of the universities are in danger of becoming the only contribution the universities make to the liberal cause. An atmosphere of defeatism and apathy has been reinforced since the Soweto confrontations in 1976. The aim of the English universities now seems to be to restore their pre-Nationalist status as independent institutions enjoying traditional academic freedoms and a minimum of government interference.

Perhaps they need to be more ambitious. The stance of political aloofness which passes as academic freedom in relatively free societies may be inappropriate in those like South Africa which are conspicuously repressive. By hunkering after a Golden Age of university independence, modelled on the traditions of the liberal democracies, the English-speaking universities in South Africa are in danger of shirking their special predicament forces on them.

It is not always the role of the university to act as an agent of social and political change, but it is one that has been common in the Third World and in countries which are unstable and ripe for reform. The English language universities in South Africa would prefer to shelter under the mantle of liberal scholarship and political detachment which is part of their colonial inheritance. If they define their task that narrowly, however, they will jeopardize their ability to profess the universal values which make them universities.

The lesson of the universities in South Africa would seem to be that the free university can exist in the society that it is not free, but it cannot coexist with it. Because it upholds values such as free inquiry and free expression the university must always come into conflict with ideologies and practices that deny these values. Apartheid is one of those and if the universities of South Africa are prepared to take it on in this fuller way, they deserve our support.

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## A new ice age for public pay?

Thatcher in her urging of pay restraint in the public sector is sounding more and more like Mr. Deighton two years ago. The doctrine of monetary policy is being brought down, interest rates are continuing higher and the squeeze on the private sector is not being applied with the brutality necessary to achieve this purpose. The public sector is being crowded out of the economy by the private sector.

It is to be sincerely hoped that on a broader, less parochial basis, the public sector will be able to retain and further develop its role in the economy.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM HUGHES,  
Reader in Fine Art,  
Slade School of Fine Art,  
University College London.

## Elisegesis and exegesis

Sir,—In my review of *The Weissenhof Estate* (May 2), I wrote: "The book is a masterpiece of eisegesis." I am sure that the reader will have noticed that the book is a masterpiece of eisegesis.

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Department of Palaeography,  
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## Laissez faire liberalism on the march



## Steven Lukes

Laissez faire liberalism is on the march, politically and intellectually. Not only does it rule in Britain but it has alarmingly plausible prospects of doing so in the United States. Throughout the West (and indeed the East) it is winning hearts and minds. What is this "social democratic" liberalism that has broken down, where it still prevails, is subject to painful strains. All of which raises an interesting question. Both the newly dominant laissez faire liberals and the old social democrats have always professed to believe in the equality of opportunity. But, assuming for charity's sake that they both mean it, how can this be?

True believers in capitalism have always claimed for it that it offers a peculiar kind of openness: the chance for all with talent and initiative to make their way. This is the old social mobility, with glittering prizes for those blessed with exceptional gifts, drive and an indomitable amount of luck. They have always insisted, however, that such equality of opportunity is compatible with a universal prospect of economic growth and a commitment to full employment. Many advocates of equal opportunity, able not to draw this distinction, or even to see it. Indeed, the morally appealing rhetoric of the second was often used to lend dignity to the more or less ruthless pursuit of the first. They equated the two ideas because life carried on especially for the unsuccessful. They could believe that opening up channels of social mobility and competitive access to the good things of life, to which they were practically committed in differing degrees, was at the same time to equalize people's chances to realize themselves. In this, of course, they were right, but only in part. For, as Tawney clearly saw, the very principles of competition and meritocracy, and the success ethic and their generalization throughout social life carried social and individual costs, especially for the unsuccessful.

Their effect was to "aim at the facilities of some" for the advantage of others. By contrast, he believed that "it is the mark of a civilized society to aim at eliminating such inequalities as have their source, not in individual differences, but in its own organization, and that individual differences which are a source of social energy, are more likely to ripen and find expression if social inequalities are, as far as practicable, diminished."

Today, however, as we contemplate the decline of economic growth and the prospect of vastly increased structural unemployment, we are forced to face a conflict between these two notions of equality of opportunity. To choose the first, its wider social-democratic form, is to choose, Maine's "beneficent private war", whose beneficence may well be doubted by the growing number of its casualties. To choose the second, which requires serious attention to the ways in which the role of competition and the market and what Tawney called "the tedious vulgarities of income and status" can be contained to their proper and subordinate sphere, then we can collectively engage in equalizing the opportunities of people in other and more important spheres.

Two deep problems, at least, attend these developments. First, how far can you go in correcting the conditions which limit people's opportunities. And secondly, how can you justify selecting individuals on the basis of group characteristics (sex, race or class) as against relevant qualifications? There is an answer to this, but it is in terms of equality of opportunity, not equality of opportunity.

Most of these developments were anathema to the true believers in free enterprise capitalism. They believe that capitalism itself maximizes equality of opportunity, and that all attempts to interfere with market mechanisms lead along a path, paved with good intentions, to the suppression of initiative and the servile state. So what is it to believe in equality of opportunity and who really believes in it?

To this, we really need to ask: opportunity for what?

There are, I think, two distinguishable answers. There is, first, the opportunity to succeed in securing scarce positions and advantages, whatever equalizing opportunity is a matter of widening the basis of recruitment to desired and privileged positions and maximizing competitive access to scarce rewards. This has always been the central plank of the laissez faire liberal platform, though he has focused on a narrow range of talents and activities. The social democratic tradition has had a wider conception of the role of competitiveness and meritocracy in social life, and it has also been more conscious of their cost. Both traditions have valued equality of opportunity, thus understood the one narrowly and the other with a human sense. The latter vision is essential to both, as can be seen from the ever-present imagery of races and ladders.

The second answer is the opportunity of individuals to develop their potential and to flourish in richly diverse ways. This is the old perfectionist ideal of human self-realization, common to J. S. Mill and to Karl Marx. All believers in equal opportunity pay homage to it. Tawney was especially eloquent about it, remarking that "the vision of a universal prospect of social mobility, with glittering prizes for those blessed with exceptional gifts, drive and an indomitable amount of luck. They have always insisted, however, that such equality of opportunity is compatible with a universal prospect of economic growth and a commitment to full employment. Many advocates of equal opportunity, able not to draw this distinction, or even to see it. Indeed, the morally appealing rhetoric of the second was often used to lend dignity to the more or less ruthless pursuit of the first. They equated the two ideas because life carried on especially for the unsuccessful. They could believe that opening up channels of social mobility and competitive access to the good things of life, to which they were practically committed in differing degrees, was at the same time to equalize people's chances to realize themselves. In this, of course, they were right, but only in part. For, as Tawney clearly saw, the very principles of competition and meritocracy, and the success ethic and their generalization throughout social life carried social and individual costs, especially for the unsuccessful."